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Issue No 104  
Available from Wednesday,  
September 9, 2009

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Behind the scenes  
with Kent Police

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Helping you to make  
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# ALL HAIL OUR LAND OF HOP AND GLORY

**WHAT'S ON & WATCH**

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**PEOPLE POWER:** The campaign to save The Railway Tavern in Teynham. Search 'Tavern'

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## A GOOD HEAD START



Morris men enjoy the Hop Festival atmosphere which drew thousands of revellers at the weekend

■ BY NICK AMES

DELIGHTED organisers say 30,000 revellers took to the streets of Faversham at the weekend to celebrate the annual Hop Festival.

The event – the largest street festival in Swale – is a celebration of the town's long brewing heritage and focuses on recreating the atmosphere of the impromptu gatherings which took place during the hop harvest in years gone by.

This year folk-rockers Folia, from Belgium, and the Prague Castle Orchestra, based in the Czech Republic, gave the event an international flavour. But morris sides, and pearly kings and queens, ensured it retained its traditional English feel.

Dave Rannie, of the Long Man Morris Men from Sussex, said: "This is such a celebration of English culture. No-one knows how morris dancing originated, but it's unique to this country and we're proud of it."

This year's festival, the town's 19th, saw stages for music in the town centre. Many pubs also put on music to commemorate the days when the hop harvest used to be brought in by hand.

During hop-picking's heyday in the 1920s and 1930s about 100,000 Londoners and many families from Kent took to the hop gardens, combining a chance to earn some cash with a holiday in the country.

Cllr Gerry Lewin, Swale council's portfolio holder for culture, said: "We're proud that visitors were able to enjoy a fantastic programme of live music and great street theatre for free at the Hop Festival."



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## WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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#### TOP TV CLIPS



**1** Summer's nearing its end, but the safety message remains the same. **Search 'safe'**



**2** Learn about the therapeutic qualities of your pets. **Search 'pets'**



**3** It's one of Kent's iconic industries – discover the tricks of the hop harvest. **Search 'beer'**

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Printed by Newsfax

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# Jail for 'junkie' who stole from work to fund shopping habit

BY IAN READ

A BOOK-keeper who was addicted to shopping "like a junkie to heroin" stole from her employers to buy the husband she met on holiday a new car and house.

Hayley Mwemi-Harris, 25, who worked for specialist building firm RJ Parry and Sons of Faversham, stole £311,806 during a four-year period ending in mid-2008.

She was able to continue her thieving spree because she was the only person in the firm who knew how to work the accounts computer.

Mwemi-Harris married hotel barman Brian Mwemi last year and spent £50,000 buying him a car to use as a taxi and renovate his run-down flat near Mombassa.

But this week a judge at Maidstone Crown Court sent her to prison for three years.

Mwemi-Harris previously admitted three charges of obtaining money by deception and one of fraud, and asked for 43 other offences to be taken into consideration.

Mwemi-Harris began cooking the computer accounts in 2004 and wouldn't have been caught but for boss Richard Parry noticing an odd debit on his personal account.

The fraud was discovered just as Mwemi-Harris returned from her latest holiday in Kenya.

When confronted by police, Harris admitted she'd inflated her wages, used credit cards in the name of employees who'd left the firm, and used credit cards in her name to buy plasma TVs and laptop computers.



Picture: PHIL HOLLINGTON

**THIEF:** Hayley Mwemi-Harris was sentenced to three years at Maidstone Crown Court

She bought clothes on a lavish scale over the net from designer firms like Abercrombie and Fitch.

When police raided her home in Hyde Place, Aylesham, near Canterbury, they found piles of unworn designer clothes and shoes.

Jo Cope, prosecuting, said: "Mr Parry thought the company was losing money because he had underestimated a contract."

The firm is on a sound footing now after winning work from celebrities like Mick Jagger and advertising company Saatchi and Saatchi.

James Harrison, defending, said Mwemi-Harris had an obsession with shopping: "She had a compulsion to shop like a heroin addict needs a fix."

Sentencing her, Judge James O'Mahony said Mwemi-Harris acted out of greed and selfishness.

He said: "In a time of recession you took money out of your firm's pocket, jeopardising the futures of the people who worked there."

## Teen driver charged over road crash death

POLICE have charged a teenager with causing death by dangerous driving following an accident in which a girl died earlier this year.

Aaron Kingsley, 18, from Faversham, was at the wheel of a Land Rover Discovery which crashed on Rheims Way in Canterbury on Saturday, April 4.

Sophie Harrison, also 18, a student at Faversham's Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, was a passenger in the vehicle and later died from her injuries. The teenager was among a group travelling into Canterbury to catch a coach to London for an 18th birthday celebration.

Kingsley, of Sheerways in Faversham, will appear before Canterbury magistrates on Monday.

## Rapid response from police prevents rave

AN ILLEGAL rave planned in woods was halted by police who swooped to stop the event before it had started.

Following reports from residents of people gathering in Perry Wood in Selling, just outside Faversham, patrols responded quickly and found around 30 people in a woodland area with sound and lighting equipment.

The revellers were directed to leave, and officers remained there to turn away further cars. The event was subsequently closed down and everyone left peacefully.

## Y not join in charity walk to raise funds

THE Faversham fundraising group for Cancer Research UK has launched the first Y Front Walk in the town to help raise funds and awareness of men's cancers.

The event, open to men of all ages, will be held at 11am on Sunday at Faversham Recreational Ground and is a 5km run or walk around the park.

The fundraising committee is based at the town's Preston Street Cancer Research UK shop.

To get involved call 01795 533325 or visit the Preston Street shop.

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# US officials wash hands clean of 'Doomsday Ship'

## EXCLUSIVE

BY NICK AMES

AN AMERICAN ship packed with unexploded bombs, which lies on the seabed off Sheppey, has been disowned by the US Government.

The SS Richard Montgomery carries enough explosives on board to devastate the north Kent coastline and force a tidal wave up the Thames and into London.

But it was officially salvaged in 1948, according to documents which have been unearthed by an investigator.

The Second World War "Doomsday Ship" still poses a threat to Sheerness, Sittingbourne, Faversham, Medway and Southend in Essex, as well as shipping in the Thames Estuary.

### Salvaged

The mystery was uncovered by filmmaker Colin Harvey as he researched a movie called The Wreck about the liberty ship which sank with its deadly cargo in 1944.

"It was astonishing," said Mr Harvey. "I found out that a man named Colonel Henry Hull MacKechnie - who was a member of what was then Sheerness urban district council - had written to the Americans about plans to put up telescopes and a plaque so people could view the wreck as the superstructure is visible at low tide."

"This was in the 1960s and he got a letter back saying the wreck was salvaged in 1948, which is blatantly untrue."

"I can only think the salvage company had



**MYSTERY:** SS Richard Montgomery sinks with thousands of pounds of explosives on board in 1944 and (right) 1962 letter which falsely stated the wreckage had been salvaged in 1948



conned the US Government and stated the work had been carried out when quite clearly it hasn't."

Checks are carried out annually on the state of the ship and its explosives, which include up to 3,762 tonnes of TNT, as well as highly inflammable white phosphorous.

Ships negotiating nearby waters need to be piloted through and the area is a no-dive zone.

The ship has remained in place with its spine broken for 65 years - but there are now signs it is going to break up into four pieces.

If that happens then the explosives could come tumbling out and blow up with the phosphorous also thrown into the air and ignited.

"This would have one of two results according to the tides," said Mr Harvey whose film is currently selling out all across Sheppey on DVD and will soon be available elsewhere.

"At high tide the force of the explosion would be lessened but a tidal wave could be caused which may even reach London."

"At low tide the blast would be much greater and would see severe damage and loss of life in Sheerness and along the coast from Faversham to the Medway towns."

"To show the effect an explosion could have it has been calculated that in order to safely dismantle the vessel, 40,000 people would need to be evacuated for a period of six months."

Mr Harvey's film - subtitled A Disaster Waiting to Happen and The Doomsday Ship - delves deeply into why the ship sank.

A US Government spokesman declined to comment.

To see an interview with Mr Harvey go to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk).

## Man charged with explosion at house

A MAN badly burned in a gas explosion which levelled a house and damaged a neighbouring property has appeared in court accused of deliberately causing it.

Alisdair Gray, 38, is charged with arson with intent to endanger life after the explosion at the house he shared with a former partner in Recreation Way, Kemsley, on April 28 this year.

He was airlifted to hospital by Kent Air Ambulance after the blast blew out the outside walls of the house and caused major damage to property next door. Firefighters were unable to rescue a dog.

The court heard the prosecution had not objected to bail when Gray, of Minterne Avenue, Sittingbourne, appeared at Maidstone Magistrates Court on August 22.

After a brief hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, Judge James O'Mahoney agreed to continue Gray's conditional bail.

He is due to return to the court on October 30 to enter a plea to the charge.

## VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Film-maker Colin Harvey talks about the SS Richard Montgomery

## Car parking profits set to miss target

LABOUR councillors have expressed concern over a projected shortfall of £100,000 in Swale council's income from car parking.

The council has blamed the cash deficit on the effects of the recession gripping the UK.

But the Labour group say decisions taken by councillors have not helped the situation.

Cllr Simon Clark (Lab) said: "Of course the recession will play a part in the drop in car park income, but there have been other local decisions taken which have not helped."

"Some car parks have been changed from long stay to short stay, which has increased the cost of parking for residents and visitors."

"Car park charges are increased every year with the now added and unwelcome introduction of charging to park on Sundays."

But Cllr Mike Cosgrove (Con), Swale council's executive portfolio holder for performance and finance, learning and skills, said: "The recession is putting pressure upon all councils and Swale is not exempt."

"Car parking income is projected to decrease over the year, but at this stage we cannot predict what the final amount may be."

## Desperate plight of kids in Malawi was the spark for charity

WHEN engineer Elspeth Baecke saw the plight of Malawi's street children on Comic Relief, instead of just making a donation she decided to swing into action.

That was in 2003 and now she runs a one-woman charity to build special orphanages for kids on the streets because their parents have died, or because there are too many mouths to feed.

Elspeth, 53, from Sittingbourne, raises the money or dips her hand in her pocket to keep her first home running.

In Africa, her Smile Malawi charity employs 20 helpers and she's looking to expand their work.

She said: "When I saw the children's plight I was horrified. The images smashed me in the face. I decided to go there and see what I could do."

Elspeth was able to buy land to build on and two years later 11 youngsters moved in.

The Malawi Government were impressed by her efforts giving her

vital status as a state-recognised organisation.

She now has 22 children aged from four to 14 under her wing.

To start with it was a daunting task. She said: "I was shocked by the scale of the poverty I saw. The children have nothing but they are happy."

Her orphanage is self-sufficient. Elspeth designed the building and installed a generator at the village near Blantyre.

She put in a bore hole so the locals could have clean water and employs villagers to work at the place.

Elspeth said: "We are the only place in the village which has electricity but we are working on ways to help the local school and clinic."

When she's at home in Kent she spends every spare moment galvanising friends and family to help her, and raises funds through private donations.

She even roped in her son Gavin, 22, to design her website [www.smile-malawi.com](http://www.smile-malawi.com).

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Two arrests after attack on polytunnels at farm

TWO people have been arrested after polytunnels on a fruit farm in Selling were vandalised.

More than £1,500 damage was caused to the polytunnels, an irrigation system and a crop of strawberries.

Faversham Neighbourhood Team officers arrested a 15-year-old on suspicion of causing criminal damage and a 22-year-old man on suspicion of arson on August 21.

Both have been bailed until September 25 to allow further investigation.

## Counterfeit DVDs swoop

A CHINESE man has been cautioned for possessing and selling counterfeit DVDs in Sheerness.

Police swooped after getting a tip-off and arrested the man, who has not been named but is aged 45 and a Chinese national. Officers said he had more than 250 counterfeit DVDs in his possession.

He was also wanted on suspicion of illegal immigration and for alleged counterfeiting crimes in Cambridgeshire in 2006.

The man has been transferred to Cambridge, where he faces trial in connection with the allegations.

## Praise for holiday crafts

ABOUT 80 children attended each day of a holiday club put on by the churches of St Mary and St Michael in Sittingbourne.

Each day included singing, a Bible story, puppets, theatricals, prayers and craft.

Among the craft activities were wind chimes, making binoculars, puppets and door hangers, all of which were decorated.

The youngsters left each session with the craft they had made, a newsletter containing puzzles and a verse they had to learn.

## Churchman's retirement

THE Rev Canon Gilbert Spencer is to retire from his position at Minster Abbey after 18 years at the end of this month.

His wife Mandy is also well known on Sheppey, having taught at Richmond Primary School for 11 years before taking early retirement.

As well as holding services in the abbey, Canon Spencer also held the post of Sheppey Hospital chaplain.

The couple plan to move to Ashford and do some travelling, with trips to the USA and Africa being planned.

# Safety first at start of new school cycle

■ BY NICK AMES

NEIGHBOURHOOD police teams across Swale have been on their bikes talking to children about road safety as the new school year starts.

They were among 200 police and community support officers across the county taking part in a road safety initiative.

The Faversham, Sittingbourne and Sheppey officers have been out on bicycles providing advice to children who walk, cycle, and take the bus or train to and from school.

As well as giving advice they have been handing out reflective wrap straps, high visibility drawstring bags, UV property marking pens, plastic bottles and stickers to children who make their own way to school.

The roads policing unit has also been taking part in the initiative by conducting speed checks around the county in areas identified by locals as having problems.

The neighbourhood team spent time in Davington, talking to youngsters about road safety. PCSO Hayley Russell said: "A lot of children cycle to school, so we've been giving them advice on general road sense and appropriate headwear, gloves, knee pads and reflective jackets."

"We have also talked to them about the importance of maintaining their bikes and of



GOOD ADVICE: PCSO Hayley Russell talks to young cyclists Zac and Lloyd about staying safe.

having effective lights, especially as the evenings start to draw in. Hopefully they will put into practice what we have said. We don't want to see anyone get hurt."

Children said they were happy to take the advice on board in an effort to improve safety on the roads across Swale.

Lloyd, 14, will make getting lights for his bike a priority. He said: "I ride every day and

the advice has been helpful. It is good that they are trying to make it safe for us."

Concerns about speeding in Davington have been voiced at Partners and Communities Together (Pact) meetings and as a result regular speed checks are carried out.

The latest took place in Priory Row as part of the road safety initiative. The highest recorded speed was 28mph in the 30mph zone.



## Could this be the ugliest mug?

ANOTHER leading contender has emerged in the hunt for the Ugliest Mug in Kent.

Macmillan Cancer Support launched the search for the most quirky or bizarre drinking mug in the county at the end of July to kickstart its major fundraising event, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

The Ugly Mug Amnesty, which is backed by KOS Media, aims to find the wackiest or most embarrassing mug lurking in your cupboards.

With just two days until the search ends, Maggie Francis, of Penenden Heath, Maidstone, has sent in this photo of her granddaughter Holly, two, with a frog mug.

Maggie said: "The mug was bought for Holly's mum many years ago, but hasn't seen a great deal of service ... it's not the friendliest of drinking receptacles!"

The deadline for entries is Friday. Send us a photo of you with the mug, its history, as well as your name, age, address, job and contact details.

The winner will be announced in next week's paper. They will receive a World's Biggest Coffee Morning Mug from Macmillan Cancer Support and a £50 coffee gift set from KOS Media.

• Send your entries by post to Jon Coates, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, TN25 6SR, or email them to [jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk)

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**BRIGHT IDEA:** New low-wattage bulbs will save energy, but some people have health worries

# Hoarder's epilepsy concern over new low energy bulbs

AN EPILEPTIC pensioner is hoarding more than 30 years' worth of old-style light bulbs because she fears energy-saving replacements could affect her health.

The 62-year-old, from Sittingbourne, who wants to remain anonymous, snapped up more than 1,000 100-watt bulbs in preparation for the manufacturing ban that came into force last week.

She says the new compact fluorescent bulbs, which the European Union is asking member countries to switch to, could have serious implications for people with light-sensitive medical conditions like hers.

"I suffer from TV epilepsy, which means I can't get near any screen or anything that flickers in any way," she said.

"The first time I realised these new bulbs might affect me was when I stood near one at a supermarket. It put me in a terrible state and I thought I was going to faint.

"I worked out that if I was unfortunate enough to live as long as my aunts did – into their 90s – that I would need about 30 years' worth of the old-style bulbs for each room.

"I have more than 1,000 now. It's cost me about £250, but it's worth it."

Energy-saving bulbs only require 20 to 23W of electricity to generate the same amount of light as a traditional 100W bulb, but the fluorescent light produced has been

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

linked to migraines and an increase in the risk of seizures for epilepsy sufferers.

They also take a while to reach their full brightness, which the Sittingbourne hoarder believes could also lead to further problems.

She said: "The NHS might find itself having to deal with an increased number of falls because the bulbs aren't bright enough to light the way. It might also lead to depression because rooms will look gloomier."

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said it was working closely with organisations representing the 36,000 people in the UK who have a "special health interest". It added that EU health experts "concluded there is not enough evidence to suggest modern lamps can aggravate epilepsy or migraines".

Steve Dawe, of Kent Green Party, said the new bulbs were far more efficient and would reduce the need to burn fossil fuels.

He added: "I think there are a lot of myths being created about this. The bulbs do take a little while to warm up but the light created is the same. As for epilepsy, I find this difficult to credit because I've come across no evidence that the lights flicker.

"Using less power is a key issue in responding to global warming and these bulbs create a win-win situation because while they may be more expensive, they save money in the long run."

## MP backs ten per cent carbon campaign

MP DEREK Wyatt has added his voice to a campaign to encourage everyone to help cut the UK's carbon emissions by ten per cent in 2010.

The 10:10 campaign, launched last week, is aimed at helping individuals, businesses, charities and the public sector cut their emissions and save money by making simple and practical changes.

It is part of an overall aim to cut down on emissions over the next half a century.

A new website – [www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org) – has been launched to allow people to sign up to the pledge, as well as offering tips on how to achieve personal targets.

Mr Wyatt, the Labour MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, said: "I know there are individuals and businesses making real progress towards reducing their carbon footprint, and many are making big cash savings in doing so."

"Contributing to this national priority needn't mean changing your life. It can be as simple as buying fruit and veg from local farmers, wasting less food or having showers instead of baths."

"If everyone pulls together we can make a real difference, and set the UK on its way to achieving the ambitious target of an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050."

yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Staying safe in the home

HOME safety advice will be on offer to elderly or disabled people in Swale this month.

Living in Safety aims to make lives more comfortable and secure by helping with repairs or adaptations.

The event will be at the Healthy Living Centre, Sheerness, on Friday, September 25, from 10.30am to 2pm, and is being arranged by the Staying Put group on Swale council, which helps people living at home.

Spokeswoman Susan Hughes said: "We want people to come along to get free advice.

"Stands will include help with benefit assessments, health information, neighbourhood watch, food safety, energy advice and much more. People can even find out about new activities to take part in, or new clubs and organisations to join.

"Staying Put will be distributing free swimming vouchers for the over-60s on completion of a questionnaire."

## Kent abuse causing a flap

ATTACKS on wild birds in Kent are among the worst in the South East, according to the RSPB.

Outside London, Kent had the highest number of bird crime cases last year, with 22 wild birds and one bird of prey, a peregrine falcon, subjected to attacks.

Reports include shootings, poisoning and nests being destroyed. But this is a drop from 2007, when 32 incidents were reported in the county. Other wildlife crimes in Kent include a man reported to have kicked a starling to death in Sheerness.

## Tragic PC's charity fund

THE family of a police officer hit and killed by a car as he tried to divert traffic away from an accident have raised more than £3,000 for charity in his memory.

PC Phillip Pratt, 26, was fatally injured on the A249 at its junction with the A2 near Sittingbourne, on June 14.

He was airlifted to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London, but died a short while later.

A total of £3,466.33 raised at his funeral was presented to the Kent Air Ambulance Trust by his parents, Ted and Chris, and sister, Julia Lewis.

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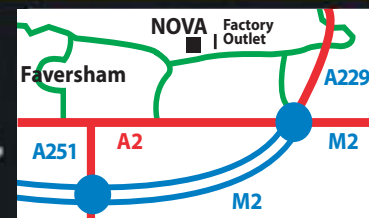
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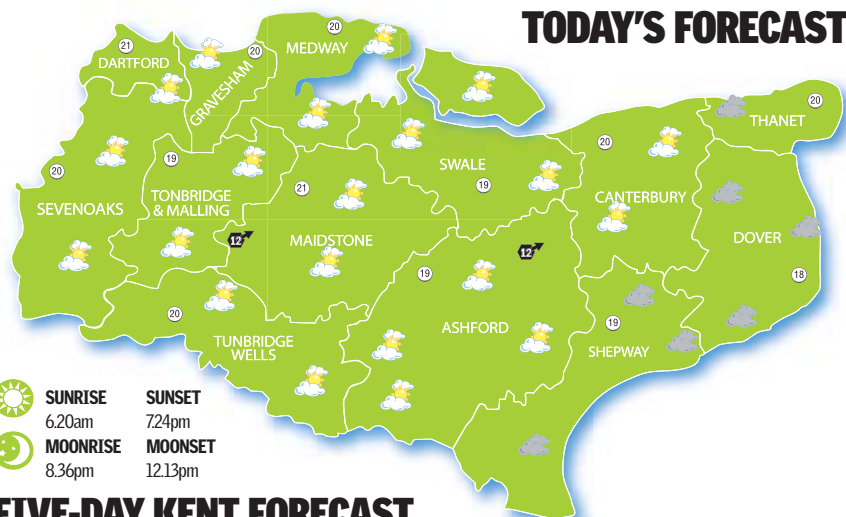
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	Sunday	7:08am	5.0m
Dover	Saturday	4:45pm	5.7m
	Sunday	6:18pm	5.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	4:45pm	6.8m
	Sunday	5:59pm	6.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	5:15pm	4.3m
	Sunday	6:03am	4.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	6:19pm	5.2m
	Sunday	6:57am	4.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	6:15pm	4.7m
	Sunday	6:55am	4.5m

## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	23°C	Madrid	31°C
Athens	25°C	New York	21°C
Barcelona	26°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	19°C	Rome	27°C
Bombay	26°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	15°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	18°C	Tokyo	27°C
Gibraltar	24°C	Vancouver	16°C
Hong Kong	34°C	Warsaw	19°C
Las Palmas	29°C	Wellington	13°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	23°C	20°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	Gravesend	24°C	21°C	21°C	20°C	19°C
Canterbury	24°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Maidstone	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	19°C
Chatham	23°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	Ramsgate	24°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C
Dartford	24°C	21°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	Rochester	23°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	18°C
Dover	21°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	Sevenoaks	22°C	20°C	18°C	18°C	18°C
Faversham	23°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	Sittingbourne	23°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	18°C
Folkestone	21°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	Tonbridge	24°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	19°C
Gillingham	23°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	Tun Wells	24°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	19°C



## Time to nominate your shining stars

THE search is on for Sittingbourne's Community Star 2009.

The Forum shopping centre has teamed up with Yoursware to find a member of the community worthy of the title.

A shopping centre official said: "Do you know a person who goes that extra step to ensure that others are cared for in the community?"

"Someone who has demonstrated exceptional bravery, or an individual who has devoted their life to helping others? Whatever their story, we want to hear about them."

Forum manager Allan Forder said: "We are searching for those who deserve the highest praise, yet usually receive the least credit."

### Wonderful

"Sittingbourne is home to some truly exceptional individuals and I'm very much looking forward to hearing about all the wonderful things people have done for their community."

Send all nominations by email to [forum@pmwcom.co.uk](mailto:forum@pmwcom.co.uk); or by post to The Forum Community Star, c/o PMW Communications, Stane Court, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9HP, by Wednesday, September 23.

Make sure to include your name and telephone number, and that of the nominee.

The winner will be invited to a presentation on Tuesday, September 29, where they will be presented with an engraved star award and prizes from shops within The Forum.

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### GRANT CHAPMAN



**Q** Can you tell us a little about your background?

**A** I trained as a chef for three years and worked in the catering industry for another two years before changing careers and moving to Royal Mail, where I was a postman for a year. I then moved to their human resources department and started life as a trainer, the main part of the role was to train the new recruits on how to be a postman. After staying there for five years I decided I wanted a change, so I went into sales and during my time in sales I sold all sorts of things. I then got my job at Macmillan.

**Q** How did you get involved with the charity?

**A** I knew about Macmillan because my nan had a Macmillan nurse. But to be honest I'd never thought about working for a charity, I'd worked in the catering industry, in the public sector and also in sales, but I'd never really felt true job satisfaction. I signed on with a recruitment agency and a month later a role as a community fundraiser in Kent came up, the agency put me forward and the rest is history. I'd like to add that I've totally found the job satisfaction I had been looking for.

**Q** Can you tell us a little bit about the charity?

**A** Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer. We provide practical, medical, emotional and financial sup-

port, and push for better cancer care. Many people know about our Macmillan nurses and rightly so as they do an amazing job, but the other work we do such as campaigning and providing financial support to families living with cancer in financial difficulties is so important.

**Q** What does your job involve?

**A** I manage a team of four fundraising managers who cover Kent and Surrey, so along with managing them and being there to support them, I also look to do my own fundraising. My key areas that I work with are companies across both counties and also the media, who are key to raising awareness of Macmillan's work.

**Q** What is the most challenging part of your job?

**A** I think the most challenging thing is giving myself enough time to fundraise in both counties while making sure my team have the support they need. It's a nice challenge though.

**Q** What is the best thing about working for Macmillan Cancer Support?

**A** There's lots of reason why I love working here, the people that work for Macmillan are great and everyone cares about the job they are doing, but I think the best thing about working here, is the feeling of knowing I've made a difference to the lives of people living with cancer.

**Q** Do you get a lot of volunteers signing up to help out?

**A** We have a brilliant team of volunteers, the work they do for Macmillan is fantastic and without them we couldn't achieve the things we do. We always welcome anyone who would like to volunteer so I would encourage anyone thinking about volunteering to go for it.

**Q** How do people sign up to volunteer at Macmillan Cancer Support?

**A** It's really easy. Just give the office a call on 01622 600050 or go to the website [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk).

**Q** What qualities are you looking for in people wanting to help out?

**A** I think everyone has something to offer whether you'd like to become an events volunteer, a collections co-ordinator or join one of our brilliant fundraising groups, there's a volunteering opportunity for you.

**Q** What do you like to do in your spare time away from work?

**A** My biggest interest outside of work is football, however I'm not playing anymore, so now it's purely watching. I'm a massive West Ham fan. I enjoy playing golf but I must admit I'm very poor. I also like to run, this started when I ran the London Marathon for Macmillan two years ago.

**Q & A**

The community fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support in Kent spoke to **Marijke Cox** about the work of the charity helping cancer victims and their families have the strength to tackle the disease



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Gallery's celebration of author HG Wells, who lived Sandgate. Search 'Wells'



Jeanette Woodcock is raising funds to combat male cancers. Search 'cancer'.



Story of the SS Richard Montgomery munitions ship. Search 'Montgomery'.



Artist Oliver Wincone amazes Canterbury shoppers. Search 'portraits'.



Dover Freemasons highlight their charitable work. Search 'masons'.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)

# Man from Moss Side is watching over us



GANGLAND shootings in Manchester's notorious Moss Side are a constant reminder to Mark Powell that he made the right decision in moving his family south.

In just over eight months as Kent Police's head of major crime, the detective chief superintendent has had to deal with just one shooting in the county – at a holiday camp on the Isle of Sheppey – and nobody was hurt.

Compare that with the almost daily battle against gun crime at his previous post in Manchester, and it's easy to see why DCS Powell believes our county really is safe.

He said: "Manchester has attracted the very unfortunate nickname 'Gunchester' due to armed gangs. It was our job to stop young men ending up with a gun in their hand or a bullet in their head. A lot of them would drop out of school and arrive in adulthood without basic life skills and no stake in society, so for them crime was a viable career option.

"We ran an anti-gang strategy that brought together staff from the police, social services, probation and different housing, education and youth groups so we could look at getting kids back into school and away from the negative influences.

"There were plenty of examples where individuals we worked with moved away from gangs and we were able to prosecute members who had a big impact on the number of shootings.

It wasn't uncommon to have more than one shooting a day in Moss Side, but we've had one shooting in Kent since I've been here."

Despite its relatively low crime rate, there were 10,000 fewer offences in Kent in the last financial year and that has seen the force rise to 18th out of 42 in England and Wales for public confidence. Senior officers are now tar-

There were 10,000 fewer crimes in Kent up until March, 2009, compared with the previous 12 months. This week, as part of our A Safer Kent series, we meet DCS Mark Powell. He knows the realities of major crime on Britain's streets, having worked in Manchester's Moss Side. Kent is one of the safest places in Britain to live and DCS Powell tells **STEVE KNIGHT** his officers intend to keep it that way



**DCS MARK POWELL:** Taking a robust line on crime

getting a top ten place. The Government treats public confidence as a major indicator of how well a constabulary is performing, so it's no surprise that DCS Powell is annoyed when he hears untruths about areas on his patch.

He said: "I've heard Margate described as the murder capital of the South East, which is really misleading because there have only been two this year. London's murder rate by far eclipses all other areas in the region.

"Part of our challenge is keeping London-based criminals out of Kent so we don't end up with the same problems drug supply creates there, such as turf wars. We don't have that in Kent because we take a robust line with drug dealers. As soon as we're aware they're moving in, we take care of it."

DCS Powell has the casework to back up his comments, pointing to the conviction of 19 dealers from London and west Kent who at the end of May were jailed for a total of more

than 40 years. The force also seized class-A drugs worth more than £1 million in the first quarter of this year alone.

But it's not just drugs DCS Powell and his team have to contend with. Cash machine ram-raids and cash-in-transit robberies are examples of the type of serious organised crime they work hard to keep out of Kent. He said: "Kent has a strong track record of dealing very robustly with organised crime. We always ask people to be vigilant but we are very well off. Kent is a very safe place to live."

## FACT FILE

The Major Crime Department investigates and secures conviction of offenders involved in the most serious and violent offences.

Between April and July, this year, the department recorded the following successes:

- 24 kilos of cocaine with a street value of £2.4m was taken off the streets of Kent. This also resulted in a 12-year sentence for the dealer.
- A total of £320,000 in cash was seized along with assets worth £2m after five people were charged over a money laundering network.
- Police seized a BMW X5 sports car, worth £17,000, from a drug dealer.
- Over the last two-and-a-half years Serious Organised Crime Unit investigations have led to 15 convictions for cash machine offences. Their sentences add up to just under 100 years.

## Chief Constable of Kent Police is ready to answer your questions

THIS is your chance to find out more about the police officers who look after our county.

Kent Police chief Michael Fuller has agreed to answer questions from our readers about any aspect of policing.

This is the second week of our A Safer Kent campaign, looking behind the scenes at Kent Police to uncover the stories behind the headlines as our 3,640 police officers help look after a population of 1.65 million.

Last week we told you about the launch of the Neighbourhood Task Teams and today you can learn about the man who came from one of Britain's most notorious areas or gun crime to Kent bringing his expertise to ensure we remain alert and protected.

Next week we'll look at the devastating effects of drugs on one family and find out how, by working with the police, the mother is helping making life safer for other youngsters.

To ask Chief Constable Michael Fuller a question about policing, email your question to [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk) or write to the editor at this newspaper, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. We will carry as many answers as we possibly can in our edition of October 7.



**TOP COP:** Michael Fuller

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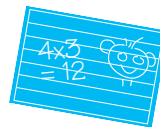


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**ARAN BROOKS, DIRECTOR, MKA PROJECTS**

For more information and to book your space at this years event call Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email [liz.hare@constructionexpo.co.uk](mailto:liz.hare@constructionexpo.co.uk)





## BREAK TIME

### GCSE results put us ahead of the trend

KENT'S students have delivered extraordinary success in their GCSE results, with grades obtained well ahead when compared with national figures.

Swale was at the forefront of the achievements, with both Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Faversham, and Fulston Manor, Sittingbourne, among the success stories. But other schools across the area noted good scores too.

A total of 72.4 percent achieved five A\* to C grades this year, around five per cent above the national average, and an improvement of 4.8 per cent on last year.

Nationally the rise in A\* to C pass rates was only up 1.4 per cent.

The performance of Kent students at age 16 has improved year-on-year since 1995 and has exceeded the national average for the past 12 years.

In addition, the 51.6 per cent of Kent students gaining five A\* to C grades (including English and maths), is up 1.8 per cent on last year and has surpassed all previous records.

Outstanding results were announced at Fulston Manor, where 51 per cent of all students achieved five or more GCSEs at C or above including English and maths – a ten per cent increase on last year's figures.

Education chiefs at Kent County Council said English and maths are not everyone's strong point and students who find these subjects more challenging are still achieving a GCSE qualification, which will stand them in good stead for further education or employment.

The county's A\* to G grades, including English and maths, stands at 92.8 per cent – more than one per cent ahead of the 2008 national average.

# Super sleuths go behind the scenes at the station

■ BY NICK AMES

TEN primary school children had a chance to see what it is like to be a police officer for the day after winning a safety competition.

More than 60 youngsters entered the contest, held by the Isle of Sheppey Neighbourhood Team at Sky Sheppey 2009 in Eastchurch, which celebrated 100 years of aviation on the island.

The contest was held to boost police links with the community on the island.

Children had to spot six clues that made a house a target for thieves or burglars and the winners then enjoyed their prize – spending a morning behind the scenes at Sheerness Police Station.

The competition winners were given a day which enabled them to see a variety of police work and they also spent time with officers who explained their day-to-day duties.

They sat behind the wheels of an emergency response vehicle and a police car. They also had a go at using police radios and tried

on police uniforms, as well as handling public order equipment.

To see what it was like on the other side of the law they then had their fingerprints taken and were booked into the custody suite.

Nine-year-old Georgette Phillips, from Halfway, who was there with her six-year-old brother Alex, said it had been a fantastic day and she had really enjoyed herself.

"I have been really excited about coming here as I am quite interested in becoming a police officer when I grow up. It has been fun being able to try on the uniforms and go in the police cars," she said.

Ten-year-old Chloe Jenkins, from Eastchurch, particularly enjoyed dressing up as a police officer.

She said: "I'm having a nice day because I have never been to a police station before. It's been really interesting to have a look around."

PC Adrian Goodsall said the morning had been a great success: "All the children enjoyed meeting members of the island neighbourhood team and having a look behind the scenes at a police station, and they all went home with a goodie bag, which was part-sponsored by Sheerness Tesco."



**DRESSED TO ARREST:** Six-year-old Alex Phillips and his nine-year-old sister Georgette try police uniforms on for size during the police day at Sheerness Police Station

**SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)**

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# 'Booze culture is taking over our county' warning

HOSPITALS are being left to pick up the pieces of an alcohol culture which has taken over the county, according to officials.

■ BY RACHEL MCATHY

Booze-fuelled days and nights have led to soaring alcohol-related admissions in recent years to A&E departments in Kent.

Figures obtained by the Conservative Party from the Department of Health show numbers have rocketed in the last four years.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust saw the biggest rise, with admissions from 2007-08 at three times the rate for 2004-05.

This equated to 1,192 people in 2004-05 and 3,584 people in 2007-08, a change of more than 200 per cent.

A spokesman for the trust said: "People coming into A&E having drunk too much and getting injured or ill is a problem and has been for some time. We are looking into these figures."

Other trusts in Kent have also experienced increasing volumes of alcohol-related admissions.

East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust saw a 31 per cent increase, from 4,785 to 6,278; Medway NHS Trust had a 25.4 per cent rise from 2,140 to 2,683; and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust suffered a 36 per cent

increase from 1,136 to 1,544.

James Brokenshire, shadow home affairs minister, who obtained the figures, said: "The reality of Labour's failed policies on alcohol has been communities blighted by drunken and loutish behaviour."

"The police are being stretched in the early hours by violent incidents and doctors and nurses in casualty departments are being left to pick up the pieces."

Tony Williams, from the Kenward Trust, a Maidstone-based charity for people with alcohol or drugs problems, said things have definitely got worse.

"It's an increasing problem in Kent," he said. "It's no coincidence that the Kent Drug Action Group changed its name to the Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team."

"This is because alcohol-related incidents are on the rise and need to be addressed."

"Our services are also called on more to deal with alcohol-related instances in Kent."

"And the majority of drug users would say a lot of their problems stem from abusing alcohol. It is a dangerous drug."

"After a few drinks you lose your inhibitions and things that would be a bad idea when sober, are different. It is a gateway drug and leads to other problems."



**GATEWAY DRUG:** Alcohol-related admissions to A&E are on the rise across the county, to the alarm of healthcare experts

# Let's face it, we all need pampering occasionally

**Yoursware reporter EMILY HALL visited the Julie Gamble Skin Care Centre in Sittingbourne to test the effectiveness of its treatments**

IT WAS sod's law that the day I had a facial I had broken out in the most terrible spots.

I've never had great skin and, to be honest, I'm sceptical that slapping on a load of pricey potions makes any difference.

The Julie Gamble Skin Care Centre in Sittingbourne High Street is a lovely oasis of calm. After being shown to my therapy room, my therapist plumped for a Dermalogica facial which maps the face.

The theory is that different parts of your face relate to various parts of your body.

The facial began with ultraviolet (UV) light being shone on my face to show the level of sun damage. I was surprised that it wasn't that bad and the therapist said that for my age, 28, I was doing quite well.

After that, a deep cleanser was applied to my face and I was given a lymphatic massage, which was really gentle and almost sent me to sleep.

As some of my face was quite dehydrated, I was given an intensive moisture-boosting face mask with scrummy sounding ingredients such as honey, as well as energising ginkgo biloba, which is said to stimulate the circulation and revitalise dull skin.

So what about the results? This facial did



**ABOUT FACE:** The Julie Gamble Skin Care Centre provides an oasis of calm in Sittingbourne High Street

make a difference, with my skin clearing up and feeling softer for a few days.

I'm told that you have to have these facials regularly for them to make a difference, so perhaps one shouldn't expect miracles after just one go.

The Julie Gamble Skincare Centre can be found at 15 High Street, Sittingbourne. It is open seven days a week, with three late nights, and provides skincare from Dermalogica, OPI and Margaret Dabbs.

For more details call 01795 420152 or visit [www.juliegamble.co.uk](http://www.juliegamble.co.uk).

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# yourswaleblogger

Gary Wright questions whether amusing news stories on train-mad toddler miss the point



## Let's hope railway tearaway Toby's mum has a firm word

NO DOUBT you'll have seen the story of Toby Friend, aged four, who keeps escaping from his home and going to try and catch the train.

"He just loves the train so much ... he thinks he can go on his own," his mother, Kirstie Field, gushed on the BBC local news then GMTV the next morning.

Tiny Toby has escaped 15 times and once actually got on board the train, said his mum (almost proudly, I thought).

And how does his mum think she can deal with his escaping and walking to the station alone, across two main roads?

She wants to put up pictures of her cute little tearaway at stations between Ashford and Tonbridge. The BBC's report had an element of 'Ah, isn't that cute? Look at the little train enthusiast'.

She told the BBC: "He just loves adventure. We don't drive, so apart from the occasional



REPORT: Toby's story on our Kent News website

bus, train is our only transport. The first time he actually managed to get on a train and asked for a ticket.

"Luckily, the guard didn't let the train leave the station. But there's always a worry that Toby's going to get on, not ask for a ticket and the train leaves as normal."

Well, I'm not sure the world is such a terrible

place that an adult passenger wouldn't at least try to look out for the youngster.

I'd be more worried about him falling through the gap. But surely if this mother is struggling to look after little Toby and make sure he doesn't get over the six-foot garden fence and out on to main roads, someone needs to have a word.

One escape I can understand, and I guess it's forgivable, but 15 times is becoming irresponsible. His mum seems pleasant enough, but putting up warning posters then telling the world about your son's Houdini act on telly is not necessarily the answer.

I suggest brushing up her parenting skills, having a firm word with her son ("Do it again and I'll take away your train set for a week") and fitting some proper locks on gates and the like.

And she might like to address the problem soon, before those nice people at social services decide they ought to be worried too.

### GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: [yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk)



TEXT: **SWALE** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include your name)

### LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the acting editor, **Jon Coates**, on **01303 817048** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 500 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk).

Write to The Editor, Yourswale, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

\* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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# yourcompetition

## Brush up on your healthy routine

FAMILY life is all about your routine.

From the time the alarm clock sounds in the morning, children and parents alike across the country will be working their five-a-day into their diet and scheduling in sports to keep them fit and healthy.

But this Oral Health Month you could discover that there's a part of your health routine that's being unintentionally neglected... While you might already brush your teeth twice a day, brushing is just the start.

Colgate, in partnership with the British Dental Association, has some simple steps that you can follow to keep your smile healthy:

- Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, at night right before bed and on one other occasion.
- Change your toothbrush regularly and clean between teeth with floss or interdental brushes.

Follow these easy steps and you will keep your smile, bright, beautiful and healthy –

and be able to give yourself a thumbs up for oral health!

To find out more about Oral Health Month visit [www.colgateohm.co.uk](http://www.colgateohm.co.uk).

Polish up your dental hygiene routine with this Colgate Oral Health Month prize, worth £100, consisting of a family supply of Colgate Cavity Protection toothpaste, Colgate 360° Toothbrush and Colgate Smiles Junior toothbrushes, Colgate Plax Blue Mouthwash and Colgate Total Dental Floss; as well as a Colgate Oral Health Month bathrobe and matching slippers.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Colgate Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is September 20th, 2009.

**Question: How many times a day should you brush your teeth?**

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## TALK TIME

### PETER GLOVER

The volunteer for the Pets As Therapy charity on his work and how animals can help children with learning or behavioural difficulties to express themselves.



#### Tell us a little about the Pets As Therapy charity.

Pets As Therapy is a national charity founded in 1983. It is unique in that it provides therapeutic visits to hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, special needs schools and other venues by volunteers with their own friendly, temperament-tested and vaccinated dogs and cats.

#### Can you tell us how the charity works?

There are about 3,600 dogs and 100 cats nationwide who take part in the scheme. We take them to schools, care homes, hospitals or anywhere else where the presence of an animal can bring assistance to people.

#### How do they work in schools?

Well today we are here at Grove Park School, Sittingbourne, with our animals waiting for people to come up and stroke them or talk to them.

We work a lot in schools, mainly with pupils who have learning or behavioural difficulties.

#### How do the children respond to the dogs and what benefits do they bring?

They help the children to communicate if they find that difficult. They will come up and stroke the dog and start talking to it. They see it as friendly and unthreatening with its wagging tail.

Those children who have communication difficulties will relate to the dog in a way they would not do to an adult, it helps them express themselves.

## YOUR LETTERS



### A great place to buy, but not to live

I was intrigued to read how Sittingbourne has now become a property hotspot on the front page of the last week's Yourswale (Sittingbourne and Sheppey editions).

Your article tells us that Sittingbourne is one of the top three places in the UK to make money from property ownership.

Our town is often talked down, largely due to the rundown state of its centre and lack of shops and community facilities.

But I guess that is the point – the study your story referred to does not say Sittingbourne is a good place to live, just a great place to buy a home.

The council has ambitious plans for regeneration and improved transport links.

But until these actually happen Sittingbourne will remain a slightly run-down town with good prospects which is ripe for investment. I am guessing this is why Folkestone also made the top three places to invest list.



## COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk) website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk) is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourswale before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk) you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

So while it's good to see our town being portrayed in a positive light in the property hotspots list and also highlighted in the Daily Telegraph for its buoyant housing market, it will only be when the council pulls off

its long list of improvements that we can all say Sittingbourne is a great place to live.

Swale council... you know what you have to do, so get on with it.

**Susan Rogers,**  
from Sittingbourne, by email.



### Hilary should be an inspiration to us all

I felt I had to write to congratulate Hilary Lister on yet another amazing achievement – Yourswale September 2 issue. (Faversham edition).

Despite being paralysed from the neck down she has sailed round Britain, becoming the first female quadraplegic to do so.

Her determination and spirit are undefeatable, and she truly should be an inspiration to anyone sitting around on the couch in front of the TV moaning about how bad their lives are, or saying they are bored. Use Hilary as your inspiration and get out there and take up a hobby or a sport, or set yourself a challenge.

If a cricketer or footballer can get an MBE for scoring a few runs or goals, then isn't it about time our Hilary was honoured?

She really has proved that if you set your mind to it you can do anything.

**Graham Golding,**  
from Faversham, by email.

### Horror of attacks on our children

My own son was attacked by a group of youths. He is now 16

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and this all happened last year. I was talking to him on the phone and heard the attack but couldn't do anything... panic struck in.

My daughter, who was 20 at the time, was also there and was also involved in the attack.

Luckily she had her phone so I called her to find that a passer-by who knew my daughter intervened and stopped it and took my children to his home, then called the police.

He to me was their angel who saved them.

Chrissie Rogers, from Maidstone, comment posted on web story at [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk)

## He served two years, not one for attack

This may be of no interest or of little importance to yourselves but Lee Cowie was not sentenced to one year in a detention centre.

He was sentenced to four years and they have to take into account

the one year he spent in prison already on remand awaiting trial, so he was released after two years in prison and is now out on licence.

I will add not with his head held high and gaining "street cred" as reported in other articles.

Lisa Auger, from Sittingbourne, comment posted on web story at [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk)

## 'Thug' came from a loving family himself

I must say to the people that never knew Lee Cowie, he was not a thug or a bully, he came from a good family with two loving parents.

Peer pressure has a lot to answer for, the sad outcome of that night does not change, but the lives of both families did.

Jane Ndreka, from Sittingbourne, comment posted on web story at [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk)

## Dive into the latest charity challenge

If any of your readers have ever thought about doing something to raise money for charity but want to do something different, a sponsored sky dive is the perfect challenge.

Anyone who raises £395 or more

for us at World Cancer Research Fund will be able to dive for free.

Any money raised will help us to continue to fund our research into the link between lifestyle and cancer. If you want to find out more about how to take part in a skydive, visit [www.wcrf-uk.org/fundraising](http://www.wcrf-uk.org/fundraising) or call 0207 343 4200.

Natalie Tarrant, events manager for World Cancer Research Fund, by email.

## Growing an interest in a very good cause

The countdown has begun for primary schools and youth groups to sign up for Mini Pots of Care, a creative and educational fundraising activity for three to 11-year-olds that raises funds for the Marie Curie Nursing Service.

Each child will receive a free pot and daffodil bulb to plant in the autumn term. In spring, when the daffodils bloom, the children have fun painting their pots before taking them home in return for a small donation to Marie Curie Nurses.

Teachers and leaders need to register by October 2 at [www.mariecurie.org.uk/minipotsofcare](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/minipotsofcare), or by calling 08700 340 040.

Amanda Mendzil, Kent fundraiser for Marie Curie Cancer Care, by email.



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## COMEDY CLUB

Friday, September 11  
Bridgewood Manor, Chatham



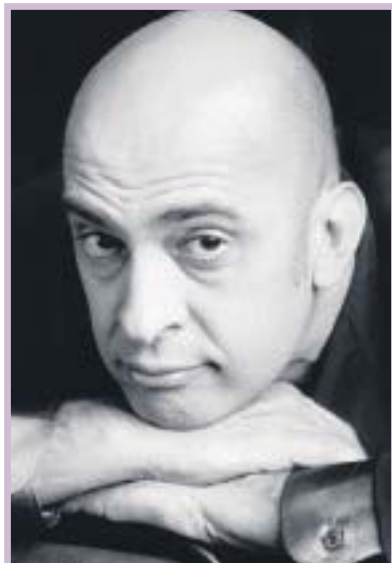
RIBS will be well and truly tickled when The Comedy Club brings a trio of hilarious comics to Medway.

Versatile and charismatic comic Miles Crawford acts as MC for the evening, demonstrating why he has also become a popular television presenter. His upbeat manner and sharp sense of humour have seen him present Nightlife, new talent showcase The Warehouse, Drumbeat and Super Sunday.

Infusing his upbeat comedy with a cynicism that gives his gags real bite, Dave Ward is a quick thinker whose original take on life inspires universally popular material.

Headline act Mike Gunn (pictured) was hailed as one of the top 10 stand-ups in Britain and has become a recognisable figure on the comedy scene, with his deadpan character and dry humour. He has appeared on Al Murray's Time Gentlemen Please and Harry Hill's TV Burp, as well as writing for The 11 O'Clock Show and Match of the Day.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £21.95 including a two-course meal and disco. Comedy Club guests are invited to stay



at the hotel for a special rate of £65 including breakfast. To book call 01634 201333 or visit [www.hahaheehhe.com](http://www.hahaheehhe.com).

## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

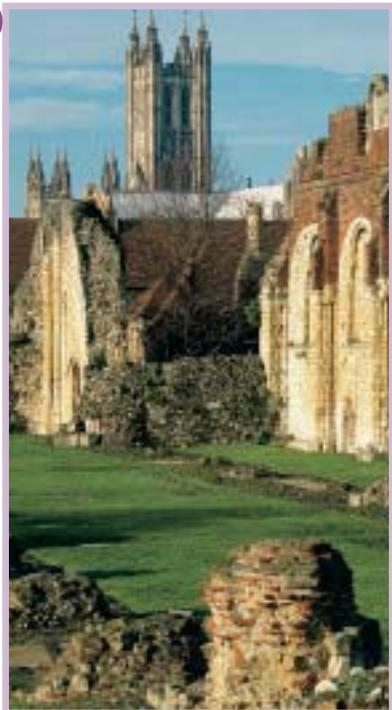
Thursday, September 10 to Sunday, September 13  
Various Venues, Canterbury area

DISCOVER some of Canterbury's most fascinating sites for free with Heritage Open Days.

St Augustine's Abbey (pictured) is just one of the city's attractions that will be welcoming visitors free of charge on one day this weekend. Other highlights include All Saints' Church, Broad Oak Chapel, Greyfriars Franciscan Chapel, the Museum of Canterbury – Poor Priests & Blue Boys, The Old Synagogue and Canterbury Castle and Norman Living History.

Those with a taste for art can enjoy the Littlebourne Barn Open Art Exhibition or stretch your legs along the Crab and Winkle Line. Anyone looking to explore further afield can visit Reculver Towers, Herne Windmill and the piers in Herne Bay or head towards Whitstable to take a tour of the Playhouse, discover Whitstable castle or visit the Wynn Ellis Mausoleum.

These are just some of the sites in the Canterbury area taking part. Many more attractions across Kent are throwing open their doors for Heritage Open Days and full details can be found online at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk). Days and times vary and some sites require pre-booking, so check the website for more information.



## EDDIE AND THE HOT RODS

Saturday, September 18  
Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone



SPEND an evening with the godfathers of high voltage rock 'n' roll when Eddie and the Hot Rods roar into Maidstone.

Described as the missing link between pub rock and commercial success, the chart-topping band enjoys a strong base of new and long-standing fans. They formed in 1976 and have just completed their most successful tour of the US, where they attracted new admirers and delighted fans who have waited more than 25 years to see them play live.

Founder member Barrie Masters provides the vocals as they rock through their greatest songs, such as Do



Anything You Wanna Do, Teenage Depression, Beginning of the End, 96 Tears, The Kids Are Alright, Get Out of Denver, Once Bitten Twice Shy and Hard Driving Man.

One of the few original pub rock circuit bands to achieve international fame, Eddie

and the Hot Rods featured on an ITV documentary about the main influences of punk rock

The concert takes place in the Exchange Studio at 8pm and tickets cost £12.50. To book call 01622 758611 or visit [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk).

## SWALE LEISURE

### An abstract look at what we call rubbish

TAKE a fresh look at the things we throw away in a new exhibition at the Polka Dot Art Centre in Teynham.

Abstract artist Sioux Peto and Colin Barnard, have joined forces to create Absolute Rubbish. Their sculptures can be seen at the centre in London Road until November 1.

For details call 01795 521167 or visit [www.polkadotac.co.uk](http://www.polkadotac.co.uk).

### Come on folk join in with song and music

BRING an instrument, sing a song or just join in the friendly atmosphere at Faversham Folk Club next Wednesday, September 16.

The club is holding a Singers Night at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street, at 8.30pm. Admission costs £1 for everyone, whether a club member or non-member. For more details call 01795 423674 or go to [www.favershamfolkclub.net](http://www.favershamfolkclub.net).

### Isle find the Kent tour very interesting indeed

DISCOVER sites of interest on the Isle of Sheppey by joining a Celebrating Kent tour on Friday.

People should meet at the Elmley Marshes RSPB Reserve car park at 10.30am.

The event costs £10, paid by cheque made payable to Kent County Council. To download a booking form, visit the events page at [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk).

### Run along and get fit at movement classes

GET fit and bring sunshine back into your life by joining movement exercise classes in Swale.

Jane Seyler will be holding free taster sessions at Doddington Village Hall from 7.15pm to 8.30pm tonight and at Boughton-under-Blean Village Hall from 1.45pm to 3pm tomorrow.

For details call Jane on 01795 886267 or email [jane.seyler@btopenworld.com](mailto:jane.seyler@btopenworld.com).

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# yourswalemusic

## Band's got talent, but Cowell might not agree

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

**ALTERNATIVE** indie outfit Carpetburn would never win Britain's Got Talent.

No, the Medway four-piece would not impress sour-faced, flat-topped music mogul Simon Cowell, smug former tabloid newspaper editor Piers Morgan nor Les Dennis' ex-wife, blub-at-the-drop-of-a-hat actress Amanda Holden.

In fact, the band would probably only get 20 seconds into their audition before being unceremoniously buzzed off stage for a quick 'where did it all go wrong?' chat with Ant 'n' Dec.

This is entirely the reason why I quite like them and why you should too.

You see, Carpetburn offer something rather different to the polished, pop-driven, disposable drivel served up by these so-called TV talent search shows.

Led by frontman and lead guitarist Pete Glover, the quartet excels in terms of off-beat yet beautiful gems of left-field indie rock.

Think cult US rockers Pavement but with Medway accents.

Pete's vocal are, to put it kindly, short of note perfect standard, but therein lays a certain charm.

The lyrics are thought-provoking, offering three-minute commentaries on tiny fragments of life, from relationships to random irritations concerning the state of society.

And then there's the musicianship. The angular riffs offered up by Pete and fellow guitarist Tom Uden are backed up ably by bassist



**MARMITE:** Go and check out the 'lovely lads' from Carpetburn – you'll either love them or hate them

Matt Hayward and drummer Ashley Yeates.

Having done away with the constraints of the simple verse-chorus-verse format, the band serve up a plethora of hand-picked melodies, crashing rock chords and two-minute outros – sometimes all in the same song.

It's either genius or rubbish; truly Carpetburn are the county's musical equivalent of Marmite.

Judge for yourself at the band's next gig, at The Barge, Gillingham, on Wednesday, September 30.

The official Facebook event page lists the night as: "Sh\*t hot tunes about girls, wizards and being ill played beautifully by the loveliest lads you're ever likely to meet."


"There are no other bands playing, so no rubbish to sit through. Just 100 per cent pure jangle-core!"

"It is in the darkest depths of Gillingham so machetes are advised. Once you get to the Barge itself however, melty candles, fine ale and a nice shrubbery await."


For more about the band visit [www.myspace.com/carpetburn](http://www.myspace.com/carpetburn).

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 Dover-based rockers Kingskin perform  
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### TOP FIVE KENT CHART

- 1 Hooligan Village - Hoods - (from Canterbury)
- 2 D-Finitive - Space (from Tenterden)
- 3 Ron Bowdery - Who You Gonna Blame (from New Eltham)
- 4 Directions - Stop Drop and Roll (from Maidstone)
- 5 Shelta - Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)

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## ON GENERAL RELEASE

## INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (18)



Quentin Tarantino's war opus is a blood-soaked fairytale set in Nazi-occupied France, divided into five hefty chapters. He splices genres to dizzying effect across its two-and-a-half hours.

## THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE (12A)



Rachel McAdams stars as the woman destined to meet and fall in love with a man (Eric Bana) who suffers from random fits of time-travelling in this adaptation Audrey Niffenegger bestselling book.

## G.I. JOE: RISE OF THE COBRA (12A)



Based on the popular action figures, this action adventure from Stephen Sommers stars Channing Tatum, Marlon Wayans, Sienna Miller and former Doctor Who Christopher Eccleston.

# Star Zooey is singing her own tune in Hollywood

■ BY KATE WHITING

YOU might not recognise Zooey Deschanel, or even be sure how to pronounce her name, but the blue-eyed songbird has been busy wowing Hollywood for a decade.

Her latest movie, 500 Days Of Summer, was a hit at indie festival Sundance earlier this year and follows roles in more mainstream hits like Yes Man, Elf, and Brad Pitt's pithily titled The Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford.

Named after JD Salinger's Zooey (from his third novel, Franny and Zooey), acting is in Zooey's blood. Her dad Caleb is an Oscar-winning director and cinematographer, mum Mary Jo appeared in Twin Peaks and older sister Emily is also an actress.

But Zooey, pronounced 'Zoe', has never allowed herself to become pigeon-holed by Hollywood.

Equally intent on pursuing her music career, the kooky dresser released her debut album last year and sings on several of her movies, including performing a cover of The Smiths' Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want in 500 Days.

The film pairs her up with her friend of eight years 3rd Rock From The Sun's Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who plays Tom, a greetings card writer who falls for his co-worker Summer (Zooey).

Yet it's no ordinary boy meets girl tale. The film rewrites traditional romcom rules by telling the story from Tom's point of view.

In a clever reversal of gender roles, Tom is the angst-ridden romantic, while Summer refuses to be tied down.

"I hesitate to even say that this is a romantic comedy, because I don't think it is," asserts Zooey, 29.

"It's more of a coming of age story about



COMING OF AGE: Singer and actress Zooey Deschanel

romance, but it walks a lot of genre lines. 'Romantic comedy' at this point is used to describe a very, very narrow genre that isn't really usually something I connect with."

For Zooey, the film's appeal lay in its unique structure and well-written characters.

"I really loved the characters and the way this story was told. In Tom's mind, Summer's the ideal woman. But she's just a smart, independent, interesting girl. I like the fact that Tom's perspective added a style to the film."

"She helps him grow because he's kind of stuck in a little fantasy world. He's not quite a real man yet and he needs to be. Summer helps Tom become a man."

Hollywood has long churned out schmaltzy

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romcoms and, in more recent years, the 'bro-romance' has also taken off, with the likes of Seth Rogan and Paul Rudd sharing their feelings for their male friends.

Could 500 Days spark of a new wave of comedies told from the sensitive man's point of view?

"I hope so!" says Zooey. "You'd hope that along with the progress of women's liberation there has been a progression for men as well."

"It's just as relevant to have a film about a guy and his first real heartbreak as it is to have a film about a woman's. I think it's about time."

Despite her music passion, acting is important – Zooey is teaming up with Danny McBride, Natalie Portman and James Franco next in fantasy comedy Your Highness and there's a Janis Joplin biopic waiting in the wings.

**500 DAYS OF SUMMER**   
Certificate 12A

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**NEXT**  
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price £59

## SWALE SHOPPING

### Booksigning will cook up a storm with Nigella

DOMESTIC goddess Nigella Lawson will be signing copies of her new paperback at Bluewater tomorrow.

The international bestselling food writer will make an appearance at Waterstone's at 6pm, to meet fans and sign copies of Nigella Express.

The book is published by Chatto & Windus, priced at £17.99.

For more information about the upcoming event call the store on 01322 624831.

### Kids will love to say they've bean to farm

MEET farm animals and see if you have the longest runner bean at Hempstead Valley Farmers Market this weekend.

On Sunday the shopping centre in Gillingham will welcome The Farm To You, a mobile farm run by Kentish farmers. Children will be able to meet the friendly animals and judging to find the longest runner bean will take place between 10am and 2pm. For more details call Sandra Woodfall on 07775 736116 or see [www.myfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.myfarmersmarket.co.uk).

### WAG wannabes can score some great deals

AS the new football season kicks off, get the WAG look for less at The Original Factory Shop in Deal.

With faux leather jackets, designer-look bags, animal print underwear and celebrity fragrances by the likes of Victoria Beckham and Colleen Rooney, ladies can get a Premiership look on a first division budget.

The shop can be found in Deal High Street. For more details call 01304 368526 or visit [www.theoriginalfactoryshop.co.uk](http://www.theoriginalfactoryshop.co.uk).

### Pin down a rare RSPB badge at auction

RSPB pin badges were introduced to raise money for the charity, but some are now worth much more than the £1 donation paid for them.

A month-long auction is being held this month, giving collectors the chance to buy five rare birds of prey badges. Running until September 30, the auction is only open to collectors club members. People interested in joining the club can contact Mark Weston on 07802 293417 or email [pinbadge.collectorsgroup@rspb.org.uk](mailto:pinbadge.collectorsgroup@rspb.org.uk).

### Have a heart and donate to worthy cause

THE British Heart Foundation is calling on people across Kent to take part in The BIG Donation this month.

With the aim of reaching its target of £7 million, the charity is hoping to receive the equivalent of 350,000 bags of quality stock at its shops across the country. Nine books donated to a BHF shop can buy an hour of life-saving research into heart, while one sofa can fund a state-of-the-art heart scan. Call 0844 412 5000 or visit [www.bhf.org.uk/bigdonation](http://www.bhf.org.uk/bigdonation).

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## YOUR TV REVIEW



**COMEDY GENIUS:** The nation's latest favourite show is Family Guy, headed up by dad Peter

■ BY TOM BETTS

**FAMILY GUY**  
BBC Three, 10pm, week nights  
**BEAUTY AND THE GEEK**  
E4, 11.30am, Sunday

JUDGING from what I hear down the pub, Family Guy must be the most talked about show on TV right now.

It seems to be everywhere and I know a bunch of my friends have the box sets of all eight series.

It's one of those shows that people can get a little obsessive about and devour on DVD, sitting for hours and hours at a time taking in each and every moment. You could call these people geeks but I prefer to look at them as an appreciative audience.

The adventures of the Griffin family are certainly influenced by its animated forerunner The Simpsons.

Dad Peter, who much of the action tends to centre around, is Homer under another name and his sheer haplessness is the backbone of most episodes. However, this is a lot ruder and a lot gutsier than the Simpsons.

Many of the jokes are played out in cutaway and flashback sequences.

The characters leading into the seemingly endless fantasy scenarios

with lines "do you remember that time when..." setting up all manner of mad scenarios and sequences.

That trick has led to criticism from purists who say it's an easy way of getting laughs, but then, if you're laughing hard who really cares?

Reality dating shows are almost always boring, with their enviably good-looking contestants massaging their own egos and earning no sympathy from the viewers. The exception is Beauty and the Geek, in which nerdy no-hopers pair up with glamorous girls to take part in challenges.

The subtitles introducing each geek include Nate, "Singer: Stars Wars Band" and Piao "Has Only Kissed One Girl". The girls are slightly more prosaic, with Megan (Playboy model) and Sheree (Hooters waitress).

When two complete opposites work alongside each other, it draws you in to see the couples start to warm to each other, despite being physically and culturally poles-apart.

But it's genuinely heart-warming when the guys start to appreciate more than the silicon and lip gloss and the girls see past the nerdy specs.

It's funny without being cruel and makes for a refreshing change when they end up as soulmates.

Geek is the new chic.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)

**RETURNING** to your student days will be great fun. You love the intellectual stimulation learning can bring. A musical type will catch your romantic interest. Be prepared to have your horizons broadened. This would be a good time to resume a writing project.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)

**YOU'VE** always been the most reliable member of your team and less diligent workmates palm responsibilities onto you. There are plenty of companies that would be eager to hire someone like you. Position yourself as the rising star you are or people will continue to take advantage.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)

**AN** email or cheque could be returned, causing you all sorts of trouble. It may be necessary to pay a penalty thanks to someone else's incompetence. It may be better to pay the fine and be done with it. Don't overestimate your ability to capture someone special's heart.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

**OLD** worries come back to haunt you. You thought you'd conquered this demon some time ago, you have; it's just you need to do some residual work. By calmly facing down your anxieties, you'll be able to move on to the next phase. Don't let a female executive intimidate you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)

**GO** through credit card bills with a fine-toothed comb. The more proactive you are about your cash situation, the easier it will be to achieve security. Stop buying into the myth you are bad with money. You have the capacity to make a fortune, so long as you're more attentive.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 21)

**YOU** may have to brush up on skills you learned as a child. If you quit piano lessons or stopped writing stories, now is the time to begin again. Submerging yourself in a hobby could bring an old friend or flame back into your life. Resist the temptation to get involved again.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)

**CASH** you've been relying on may not arrive when you need it. Make an alternate plan. Whether this means borrowing from a relative or downsizing your lifestyle is immaterial. The important thing is to take control. Keeping your head in the sand will compound your problems.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)

**AN** organisation you once worked for could ask for your help. You have serious reservations about getting involved with them again. Feel free to turn them down. Although you still care about the issues, you can't abide the people. Why make problems for yourself?

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)

**A RELATIONSHIP** issue that plagued you in the past could resurface. It's possible you've been spending so much time at work a partner feels neglected. You need to loosen up. By making just a few adjustments, you'll get the support and companionship you crave.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)

**CHANGING** routines is essential to your happiness. Someone who has a new job or different schedule needs to be accommodated. If you live on your own, you may be thinking about moving back in with a relative. Maintain your independence. Find another way to make ends meet.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)

**ALTHOUGH** you deeply resent a relative or neighbour's interference with your personal life, you have no choice but to go with the flow. A big-headed colleague may want you to break off a romance. This is probably because they are jealous. Turn a deaf ear to their sniping.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)

**YOU** may have to take over for your boss. Although you hate the extra responsibility, you are pleased to know others have confidence in you. By the time everybody gets back in place, you will have earned your right to a pay raise or perk. Resist the urge to buy a status symbol.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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No104

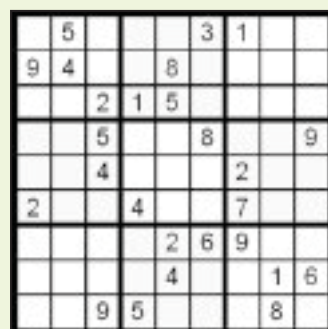
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

### EASY



### MEDIUM



### HARD



### CRYPTIC CLUES

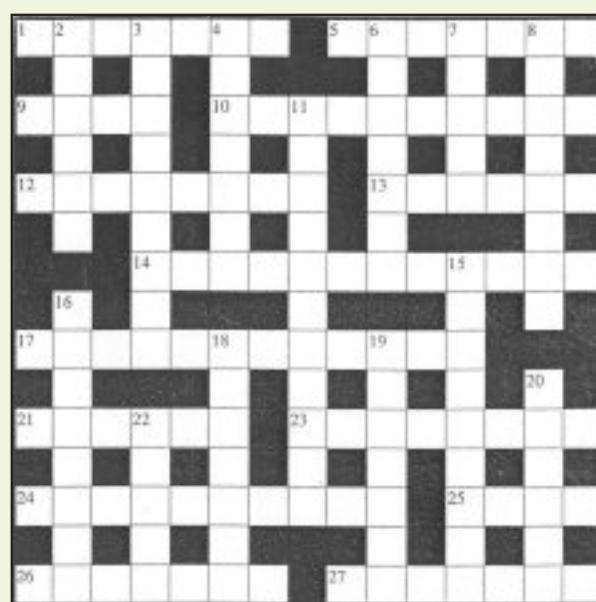
#### ACROSS

- 1 Greek had fibre or tough tissue (7)
- 5 Nonsense, it can be thrown away as worthless (7)
- 9 Stunning card? (4)
- 10 One new form I see, say, of a style of art and architecture (10)
- 12 Show team collapsing to some extent (8)
- 13 Like a rough cloth, flowery? (6)
- 14 Highest position attained by king of the forest? (3,2,3,4)
- 17 New current of opinion from another quarter (4,2,6)
- 21 Trembling friend? (6)
- 23 Candle or tool shortly left in island off Hampshire (3-5)
- 24 Money, duple arranged whilst out of work (10)
- 25 Spots aircraftman, one without the ball (4)
- 26 You would be offended if you take it (7)
- 27 Singular spot of ocular medicine I reportedly spill (7)

#### DOWN

- 2 Corset to come quickly (4-2)
- 3 Citizen Edward was made liable (9)
- 4 Fancy spring ball (4,3)
- 6 Open order at lunch (7)
- 7 Beat cook (5)
- 8 Superficial type in southeast had record (4-4)
- 11 Not easily accessible from street (3,2,3,3)
- 15 Dirt Hazel removed from peninsula (3,6)
- 16 Tree number six found above stream with small amount of hesitation (8)
- 18 Warning 50, say, it's the front limb (7)
- 19 Nearest time of fame in 24 hours time (4,3)
- 20 Hits on revolutionary religion (6)
- 22 Sikh merchant's language (5)

### SCRIBBLE HERE



### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1 Body of troops (7)
- 5 Ceremonial flight (7)
- 9 Cosy (4)
- 10 May-beetle (10)
- 12 Protein in connective tissue (8)
- 13 Spout (6)
- 14 November 5th (7,5)
- 17 Hard to understand (12)
- 21 Powerful person (6)
- 23 Ta (5,3)
- 24 Substance that kills toadstools etc. (10)
- 25 Tidy (4)
- 26 Platter (anag.) (7)
- 27 Tiredly (7)

#### DOWN

- 2 Arbitrary (6)
- 3 TV set (6-3)
- 4 Congaed (anag.) (7)
- 6 A permit (7)
- 7 Vitality (5)
- 8 Surreptitious (8)
- 11 Took possession of (11)
- 15 One gliding at the rink (3-6)
- 16 More ancient (8)
- 18 Deducible (7)
- 19 Writing for the blind (7)
- 20 Joyous (6)
- 22 Isle off Hampshire (5)

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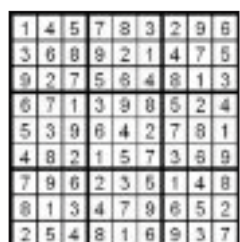
## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No103

#### EASY



#### MEDIUM



#### HARD



### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No103

**ACROSS:** 1 Studio flat 7 Fuel 9 Tailspin 10 Allium 11 Subjective 14 Honeydew 15 Expect 16 Strung 18 Perfecto 20 Occasional 23 Urchin 24 Gladness 25 Good 26 Donkeywork. **DOWN:** 2 Toad 3 Dolt 4 Opposed 5 Longbow 6 Trapeze 7 Felt-tip pen 8 Equivocate 12 Monte Carlo 13 Bequeathed 17 Grinned 18 Pink gin 19 Release 21 Snow 22 Tsar.

### QUICK SOLUTION No104

**ACROSS:** 1 Brigade 5 Flypast 9 Snug 10 Cockchafter 12 Collagen 13 Nozzle 14 Bonfire night 17 Inexplicable 21 Bivvy 23 Thank you 24 Fungicidal 25 Trim 26 Prattle 27 Wearily. **DOWN:** 2 Random 3 Boggle-box 4 Decagon 6 Licence 7 Prazz 8 Stealthy 11 Confiscated 15 Ice-skater 16 Antiquer 18 Logical 19 Braille 20 Jovial 22 Might.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



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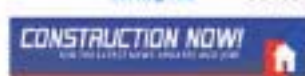
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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Keeping optimism up boosts sale chances

HOMEOWNERS are regaining their confidence in the UK housing market with 35 per cent of vendors currently prepared to stick with their asking price, rather than drop to secure a sale.

According to new research from The Co-operative Bank, a change in attitude is taking place among sellers, although home buyers are holding back with only 12 per cent prepared to offer the full asking price for a property.

The study also reveals 54 per cent of people questioned have begun to feel more optimistic about the UK housing market, with 29 per cent of this group noticing positive vibes in the last month.

The Co-op's director of retail banking, John Hughes, said: "With much speculation about green shoots of recovery in the housing market, the findings do indicate that consumer optimism is starting to return, although there clearly still remains some way to go."

In the meantime, homeowners are keeping themselves busy with maintenance and developing strategies for a sale. The study claims 49 per cent of respondents said they would repaint, while 10 per cent planned to send away pets during viewings.

A further five per cent were studying feng shui and two per cent are borrowing a flash car to park in the drive.

### Building on new homes

HOUSE building in England is on the up, with figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government showing a 63 per cent quarterly rise in the number of new starts.

During the three months to the end of June work began on an estimated 29,980 homes although the figure fell nine per cent short when compared to the same period of 2008.

The second quarter of 2009 also saw housing completions increase 24 per cent to an estimated 39,320, compared to the March quarter, up seven per cent from a year earlier.

Private enterprise housing starts leapt 73 per cent in the June quarter but were still 12 per cent lower than a year earlier. Private enterprise completions rose 27 per cent putting on just one per cent compared to the same period of 2008.

On an annual basis, housing starts for England continued to decline, with 87,190 in the 12 months to the end June, down 41 per cent year-on-year and falling 53 per cent behind the 2005/6 peak.

Finally, the year to the end of June saw 136,140 completion in total, down 16 per cent on the previous 12 months.



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# Green shoots may not be able to take root just yet

■ BY NICK AMES

ACCORDING to the latest figures from Nationwide, house prices rose 1.6 per cent in August, the fourth consecutive rise of their house price index.

The average price of a home, according to the building society, is now £160,224 with the rise underpinned by the low interest rate set by the Bank of England.

The monthly change in house prices from July was up 0.2 per cent, with the annual decline slowing from minus 6.2 per cent to minus 2.7 per cent. Nationwide say the housing market has been buoyed by low interest rates, but warns they will not stay low forever.

Martin Gahbauer, Nationwide's chief economist, said: "The exceptionally low level of interest rates offers some explanation for why house prices have not repeated the very sharp falls of 2008."

"There are two main channels through which the low level of interest rates has impacted the housing market. Firstly, mortgage payments for existing homeowners, especially those with tracker or standard variable rate loans, have been reduced substantially."

"In addition to limiting the supply of second-hand homes, lower interest rates have also had an impact on the demand side. Even though house prices remain high relative to earnings, the fall in interest rates has improved the affordability of mortgages for those looking to buy a home."

"While low interest rates have clearly played a part in reversing the downward pressure on house prices, they are unlikely to stay at the current level forever."

"It is important to keep this in mind when interpreting recent price trends."

Earlier the British Bankers Association showed approvals for mortgages among high



**STILL UNCERTAIN:** Although the market is improving, experts warn we're not out of the woods just yet

street banks in July were 77 per cent higher than a year ago. But housing experts have warned unemployment could be the key issue to preventing a full recovery of the housing market this year.

Nick Hopkinson, director of Property Portfolio Rescue said: "The latest data shows that house prices have stabilised recently but on 'wafer thin' sales volumes, as homeowners sit tight amidst wider economic uncertainty."

"With unemployment continuing to soar and securing a new mortgage almost impossible for most borrowers, we are likely to see prices

falling back again later this year as the peak summer buying season ends."

And the National Association of Estate Agents said the government must continue to aid the beleaguered housing market.

President Gary Smith said: "Whilst it is true that conditions in many areas across the country remain tough, we must now concentrate on how the government and major lenders can build on this evidence of new consumer confidence to further consolidate what will no doubt be the lynch-pin of general recovery in the UK economy."

## Mortgage lending a hand to market

MORTGAGE lending rose 26 per cent in July compared with June, according to the latest figures to be released by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Gross mortgage lending totalled an estimated £16 billion in July, 26 per cent higher than the £12.7 billion lent by mortgage providers in June but still down 36 per cent from £24.9 billion in July 2008.

The CML said the latest figures were an indication of a modest improvement in the housing market over the summer after an exceptionally weak winter.

But mortgage lending is still down on any historic comparison; this is the lowest July

lending figure since 2001 and £11 billion lower than the July average over the previous seven years of £27 billion. The CML added that lending volumes remained consistent with its forecast for £145 billion in gross mortgage lending this year.

The trade body predicted the rise in mortgage lending reflected the seasonal trend over the summer months as a whole. June and July are, typically, strong months in terms of mortgage lending because of increased activity among potential homebuyers.

CML economist Paul Samter said: "Most of the indices point to house prices rising modestly over the summer months. The CML's July

gross lending estimate of £16 billion is the highest level in nine months and consistent with the rise in house purchase approvals."

"But the bounce-back in activity from the extreme weakness around the turn of the year, coinciding with a seasonal bounce, is limited in how far it can go against the current back-drop."

"We expect improved sentiment to support the market, but a further significant pick-up is unlikely with so many obstacles in place. As a result, we anticipate some seasonal slowing in lending volumes and housing transactions over the latter part of the year and the picture of a slow but more stable market to emerge."

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### Minster On Sea

- Three Bedroom
- End of Terrace House
- Ensuite Shower Room.
- Garage.
- New Building
- No Chain

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### Bredgar

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Two reception rooms. Kitchen
- Front and rear gardens

**£235,000**

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### Sittingbourne

- Three Bedroom House
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### Minster on Sea

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### Sittingbourne

- Two bedroom semi detached
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**£127,500**

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### Minster on Sea

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### Minster on Sea

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### Sheerness

- Three bedroom terrace property
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### Minster on Sea

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- No Chain
- Early Viewing Essential

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### Sittingbourne

- Three bedroom semi detached
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to New Homes Week  
in this weekends

KENT ON SATURDAY & KENT ON SUNDAY



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## Countrywide

### Minster On Sea



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### Sittingbourne



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### Sittingbourne



**£139,995**

Semi-detached house, garage and drive. Three bedrooms. Two receptions. Kitchen and conservatory.

### Newington



**£139,995**

Three bedroom terrace house with lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom garage en-bloc popular village location.

### Sittingbourne



**£139,995**

End of terraced house with three bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, enclosed garden and driveway.

### Sittingbourne



**£209,995**

Three bedroom link detached. Lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, bathroom, gardens and garage.

### Sittingbourne



**£259,950**

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## WOMEN seeking men

### LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Young lady, 20, enjoys meals out, cinema and socialising with friends, WLTW a man, 20-30, with similar interests. Eastbourne Box 454247

### MY EVERYTHING

Ashford based, bubbly and fun single mum, 23yr old, curvy build, brunette. I like reading and socialising. WLTW like minded male. Box 457472

### A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Hi I'm Katie, caring, fun-loving, 5ft5, slim single mum of 2. Enjoy clubbing out and cosy nights in with genuine man. Box 453262

### MATCH OF THE DAY!

20yr-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soul mate. Box 446494

### NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

### YOURS AND YOURS ONLY

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTW white British male, 29-34, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 883341

### IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTW cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879331

### WAITING FOR YOU!

Tall curvy, cuddly female, 32, brunette with green eyes, seeks tall, white, attractive, easygoing male for fun and LTR. Chatham Box 874763

### GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving lady, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 5ft4, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

### HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

### GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, tennis and cycling, with similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712

### A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877857

### FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

### HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair, blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

### SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoys cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

### SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, winning, dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship... Box 453079

### STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

### HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

## BE MINE

Honest, caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest, have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159

## SOMETHING LASTING

Professional single mum, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Halsham Box 455221

## GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding and WLTW honest, reliable man. Box 451311

## SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

## CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship/romance. Box 879783



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## MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, hurt in past, seeks nice, genuine guy for happiness - no time-wasters! Box 908053

## LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

## ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Really pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! Likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

## A SOUL MATE

Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, seeks like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066

## PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals/pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine. Box 453374

## YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walks, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship, relationship. Box 901893

## TO THE STARS

Woman with a great sense of humour, I'm 40 and I like going out, astrology, writing and socialising. How about you? Kent area. Box 453277

## A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

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## JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable, petite girl, great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Seeks fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434

## BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900

## FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

## ACTIVE TYPE

Lively, energetic fun loving mum, 42, 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair, hazel eyes. WLTW honest, fun, mixed race/black gent, for lasting relationship. Box 451819

## ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796

## LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517

## HELLO EVERYONE!

Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTW a non-smoking guy to have it all with. Seaford Box 454569

## LET'S DATE!

Hard-working woman, 42, WLTW nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327

## A CHANCE FOR ROMANCE

Energetic 43yr old female, 5'9", short dark hair/blue eyes, slim, have grown up daughter, love the outdoors, cooking, good food, music, days out, country walks...Medway. Box 456868

## TALL ORDER

Curvy lady, 5ft9, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020

## LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

## ONLY LOVE

Looking for a young at heart, non-smoking, cat loving male. I'm 44, enjoy travelling, reading and going out, looking for friendship, possibly a relationship. Folkestone Box 456019

## STARTING OVER

Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTW a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141

## RELIGHT MY FIRE

Young professional widow, 46, own home, tall, attractive, green eyes/fair hair, enjoys all the good things in life. Looking for a fun-loving romantic guy. Box 876575

## HEART AND SOUL

Easygoing single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176

## COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693

## FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Understanding, caring female, 45, 5ft4, medium build, brown hair, likes cinema, animals, music, romantic pubs, seeking male for cuddles, hugs and more. Box 444873

## FROM THIS MOMENT

Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, n/s, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, n/s, 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454593

## HOPING YOUR THE ONE

Petite, outgoing blonde, 46, GSOH, looking for a caring, compassionate man who will be my soulmate and hopefully my life partner. Box 454710

## ETERNALLY YOURS

Easygoing woman, likes most things in life: country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTW genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

## ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

## 2'S COMPANY

Seeking gent, 46-50ish. I'm a divorced woman, in Pkve, 47, work in nursing and WLTW someone loving and faithful. I like meals out, theatre, arts, walks. Box 452503

## BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy. Box 425952

## A WONDERFUL IDEA

Professional lady, 49, n/s, with manners and a heart, good-looking, hazel eyes, blonde hair, likes cinema, week-ends away and walks, WLTW my soul mate! Maidstone Box 455662

## TWO LOVELY LADIES UP FOR GRABS!

Two bubbly divorced ladies, 49 and 50, looking for two normal divorced guys, early 50s, for happy times and romance. East Sussex Box 456876

## CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100

## JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

## SHARE A BOTTLE

This is Diane, I'm 51, 5ft7, quite curvy, very social, honest and friendly. I work full-time and want to spend time with a nice man. Box 453370

## LOVELY BUBBLY

Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

## BRING ME TO LIFE

Lighthearted female, 42, 5ft2, medium build, loves walking, socialising, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832

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## LIFE IS FOR LIVING

Professional woman, young 53, likes gardening, summer BBQs, keeping fit and long walks, looking for a non-smoking man to share life with. Box 453307

## REAL THING

Tactile female, 54, 5ft3, medium build, likes walking, animals, countryside, places of interest, looking for an adventurous, Irish fellow to accompany me. Box 453859

## DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

## TALL & SLIM

Sociable female, 54, tall & slim, short dark hair, green eyes, love gardening, walks, reading, visiting country pubs, dining out, with a like-minded gent. Box 456504

## COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 443642

## A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Bubbly blonde, 56, hazel eyes, hard working, seeking a man, 45-55, to be my knight in shining armour. Herne Bay Box 454417

## LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

## DOG LOVER?

Lovely lady of 58, 5ft7, medium build, blonde hair, a hairdresser, likes art galleries, theatre, cinema and painting, seeks male to enjoy this and more. Box 457241

## WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

## BEING WITH YOU

Hi I'm Jenny, 61yr old widow, enjoys pub meals, countryside, the beach, cinema, seeks loving male for friendship and more. Box 453104

## SHARE THE QUIET TIMES TOGETHER

62yr old attractive, well presented, happy lady, 52", short dark hair, slim build, love beach walks, picnics, music, cosy nights, with a like-minded, genuine male. Box 455635

## LOTS OF TLC TO GIVE

Happy-go-lucky lady, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walking, holidays abroad, looking for like-minded male for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 452897

## SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...

Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382

## NEARLY FOUND

Tall, slim, fair-haired lady, 68, sociable but lonely and looking to meet a man to take a special place in my life. Folkestone. Box 454993

## Women seeking women

### JUST A GIRL

Bubbly, feminine, attractive lady seeking the same! I'm slim, athletic, blonde hair/blue eyes. I'm 28 and WLTW similar female. Box 878997

### THE SWEETEST THING

Hello there, I'm Heather, 46, kind and caring, looking for a similar soulmate. Seaford Box 454133

### HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE?

Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham Box 456805



## MEN seeking women

### HOP SKIP AND A JUMP!

Attractive man, 27, 6ft3, dark hair/blue eyes. Hastings area. I like art and would like to meet similar female. Box 457268

### LOVE ME TENDER

Fun-loving honest guy, 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading to honest, tender relationship. Eastbourne. Box 446200

### MANY INTERESTS

Ashford based man. I'm 35 and enjoy music, walking, dogs, biking. WLTW female for friendship, maybe relationship. Box 457220

### BOTTLE OF WINE

Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair. I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

### CALL ON ME

Hi Ladies! Here, 37, 6ft2, blue eyes, short hair, medium build, gsoh, loving, caring, seeking female for a LTR. Chatham Box 873903

### STICK WITH YOU

Attention 38yr old male, looking for a special lady to slowly re-discover all the good things in life. Box 450599

### VERY LOVING AND LOYAL

Jason, 39, 6ft, dark hair, smart, average looks, single dad, recently separated, would love to meet single mum for helpful relationship. Box 457340

### TRUSTWORTHY

Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big smile. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437

### THE WIT TO WOO



## MOTORS NEWS



### Sales shock as Korean 'mini' takes No1 spot

HYUNDAI is claiming the No1 sales slot in August, overtaking perennial leaders Ford and Vauxhall.

The Korean marque's claim is based on sales to private buyers rather than the fleet sector, which delivers such a big chunk of registrations to the dominant pair of brands.

A big part of the Hyundai success story has been its little i10 city car (pictured), helped by the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme that encourages owners of older cars to trade them in for a £2,000 discount against a new car.



### Suzuki launch luxury Swift for '59 plate

SUZUKI has launched a highly-specified version of its popular Swift supermini to chase '59 plate sales.

The SZ-L limited edition (pictured) is based on the 1.3-litre GL five-door model, but gains air con, pearlescent or metallic paint, 15-inch alloys, side protection mouldings, interior carpet mats and chrome highlights.

Heated door mirrors incorporate side indicators and are electrically retractable when parked. It can average nearly 50mpg and is priced at £10,250.

Suzuki has also added a four-door saloon (£11,895) to its SX4 hatchback range.



### Caterham Lego builds on Top Gear award

LEGO has immortalised the Kent-built Caterham R500 sports car by adding it to its Legoland display.

The car, which is made at Dartford, has been recreated at the Windsor theme park along with Top Gear presenters Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond, James May and the Stig, after winning the TV show's 'Car of the Year' title.

Based on the legendary 1950s Lotus Seven design by Colin Chapman, the £38,000 Caterham Superlight R500 won that award after a giant-killing contest, outpacing such supercars as the £1 million Bugatti Veyron.



**NOT SO PICTURESQUE:** The new Renault Scenic, while spacious, is blighted by an ugly dashboard, poor cabin materials and you will be better served by purchasing your own sat nav

## Several eyesores get in the way of latest Scenic route

RENAULT would love us to believe that buying its Scenic compact MPV implies every journey will be a sensory pleasure – the 'scenic route'.

And there is much about the new third-generation car to uphold but, as so often with the French marque, some scenery jars on the senses.

The cabin on the five-seat version tested is spacious, but enhanced by a big glazed area and, on our upmarket 2.0 dCi 160 Dynamique 'Tom Tom' model (£20,445), a sunroof to the front and a glassy rear roof.

However, the dashboard is one of the ugliest you will see and cabin materials are generally off the pace.

A long hood over an uninspiring and penny-pinching centre mounted digital display also fails to prevent some reflection on the screen of a much-vaunted factory-fitted sat nav, adding £350 to the price.

This system, developed with aftermarket sat nav leader Tom Tom to provide an affordable alternative to often inferior units fitted by carmakers, is a brave effort, but the screen is let down by a clunky and unnecessary interface on the centre console – buy a portable

## ROAD TEST RENAULT SCENIC

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

Tom Tom and save a couple of hundred quid.

The sound system – apart from the excellent steering column mounted controls – is also typically and needlessly complicated; surely, in this day and age, you should not have to refer to the manual just to perform the simplest tasks?

Fortunately though, as with the occasional eyesore on a long journey, such niggles should disappear with long term ownership and familiarity, leaving a better overall view of the latest Scenic.

For the car looks good for an MPV, has a wide tailgate for easy loading and the three rear seats fold and slide easily, although I did receive some earache about the comfort levels.

Three 12v sockets are arranged to the front, middle and rear and a large sliding centre console and four under floor lockers add to the huge amount of stowage.

The refined 160bhp 2.0 diesel is also a delight, though using its ample power for sporty driving reveals a suspension better suited to a fully laden MPV than supermini antics.

Prices start from £13,595 and seven-seat Grand Scenic versions are available for a £1,500 premium.



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**Senior & General Appointments 34-36**

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This special project Gateway to 'Suscon' has been funded by the ESF (European Social Fund), SEEDA and North West Kent College. The project aims to provide skills for at least 1,250 people for sustainable jobs that respond to the needs of climate change within the construction industry. Initially the project aims to identify skill needs, deliver current programmes, place people in sustainable employment and build a skilled workforce for the future. The project will involve the development of training products, employment support, business support and skills development, all in conjunction with local companies.

All posts are based at The Bridge, Dartford

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Package: up to £53,000

This person with a construction background will be responsible for the realisation of the project delivery plan; providing high level leadership and management to the programme. The role will be highly proactive with a focus on key indicators relating to business development, centre performance, financial monitoring and contractual compliance.

### EMPLOYABILITY MANAGER

Package: up to £44,000

This person with a construction background will maintain and build partner, stakeholder and client relationships in support of employment within sustainable construction, development and delivery of employment initiatives ensuring a high quality delivery. Previous multi-agency working is essential along with experience of initiating and implementing similar projects.

### TRAINING MANAGER

Package: up to £44,000

This person will maximise training opportunities by developing and co-ordinating training programmes to meet sustainable construction criteria. Working closely with employers to design and deliver programmes ensuring that the products and services are accredited.

All posts are offered on a fixed term 18 months

Interviews are expected to take place on 23/24/25 September

The college is committed to promoting equal opportunities and actively encourages applications from disabled persons and ethnic minorities



See our website for further details of the above posts -  
[www.nwkcollege.ac.uk](http://www.nwkcollege.ac.uk) Online applications only to: [HR@nwkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:HR@nwkcollege.ac.uk).  
CVs NOT ACCEPTED. NO AGENCIES  
Closing date for applications: noon on September 16 2009



## Career Opportunities



Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

The closing date for the following post is Monday 21 Sept 2009 at 12 noon:

**Head of the Professional Development Centre at Sheppey** 09/56  
37 hours per week, salary starting at £42, 760 per annum

The closing date for the following posts is Monday 11 Sept 2009 at 12 noon:

**Trainer Demonstrator Construction** 07/07  
18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £19,248 pro rata per annum

**Lecturer Construction** 09/48  
18.5 hours per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit [www.canterburycollege.ac.uk](http://www.canterburycollege.ac.uk) or call the Human Resources Office quoting the above reference.

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[www.canterbury.ac.uk](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk)

Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher education and training, the emergency services, health and social care - and a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

## MEDWAY CAMPUS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WELLBEING AND THE FAMILY

## Departmental Secretary

**£17,026 to £18,550 per annum**

An enthusiastic, efficient and organised individual is required as a Department Secretary to provide secretarial and administrative support to the Academic Head of Department and administrative support to the Department's programmes as required. As a front line administrative contact and web author for the Department, you will have excellent customer service skills, be versatile, able to work to deadlines and show initiative to promote a positive experience for our students, stakeholders and staff.

Recent experience of secretarial/administrative support within FE/HE is preferred, good IT skills (web authoring/database management is advantageous), an approachable demeanour and the ability to work respectfully with confidential information.

Informal enquiries to the HOD of Health, Wellbeing and the Family on (01634 894507).

Application forms and further details are available from [www.canterbury.ac.uk](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk) Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail [hr@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:hr@canterbury.ac.uk) quoting reference number SEC2/HWF/77. No agencies.

Closing date: 17 September 2009. Interview date: 30 September 2009.

## FINANCE OFFICER

**Riverside Primary School  
St Edmund's Way Rainham Kent**

**Salary £14,891-£18,937 pa, pro rata FTE  
Hours to be agreed (not less than 20hrs/week)**

Required as soon as possible to provide an effective and efficient financial support service within the school.

Any offers of appointment are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Contact **Mrs Smith, School Business Manager**, Tel **01634 338700** or email **office@riverside.medway.sch.uk** for an application form and job specification. CVs will not be accepted.

**Applications Close: 21 September 2009**

Previous applicants need not apply.



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MAXIMUS Employment and Training is a UK welfare to work provider and part of the MAXIMUS group of companies, operating throughout Australia, the United States and Israel. In helping the long term unemployed into work, we are seeking staff for the following roles at various locations in Surrey, Sussex and Kent.

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**Locations: Redhill, Haywards Heath, Horsham, Bognor Regis, Chichester, Worthing, Brighton, Eastbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Dartford, Chatham and Ramsgate**

Further details and application packs can be found on the MAXIMUS website at [www.maximusuk.co.uk/vacancies.html](http://www.maximusuk.co.uk/vacancies.html)

Applications close 1:00pm, Friday, September 18th



KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry.

We now have a vacancy on our county sports desk for a

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We are looking for someone who doesn't accept second best, is prepared to go that extra yard and is brimming with ideas. Just being a sports fan isn't enough.

NCTJ preliminary qualifications, including shorthand is a prerequisite.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:



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or email:

Glenn Pearson Sports Editor  
KOS Media  
Apple Barn  
Hythe Road, Smeeth  
Kent TN25 6SR

[glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk)



## Housing and Environment, Housing Services

## Housing Officer x 2 Ref: HO/CD

**Salary: Circa £17,000-£24,000**

Gravesham is a diverse borough facing exciting challenges in the future. We are at the heart of the Thames Gateway and on the brink of massive growth and development, so if you've got vision, imagination and ambition, there's no better place to progress your career.

Applications are invited from experienced housing professionals who can demonstrate a track record of delivering high quality housing and estate management service within the social housing sector.

Duties will include:

- Tenancy and estate management & dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- Tenant participation & Neighbourhood development.
- Management of the council owned permanent Traveller sites, working closely with the residents ensuring high standards of repair and cleanliness.
- Minimising void rental loss and optimising rental income.
- Liaising with a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies in delivering the housing management service.

A strong team player, you will have strong interpersonal and communication skills, a sound knowledge of housing law and practice and have previous experience in a customer facing role. Knowledge of welfare benefit systems are an advantage, but not essential. A full driving licence and the use of a vehicle are also essential.

**Closing Date: 13 September 2009**

**For an application form and job description please contact:**  
Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre,  
Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

**Telephone:** 01474 33 70 00

**Email:** [customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.gravesham.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/jobs)

Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy.



## Abbey Court School

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.  
We are currently looking for...

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

**£14,891 - £18,937 (pay award pending) pro-rata  
+ SEN Allowance (£1,165)**

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you?  
Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

**For an application pack, please write to/telephone  
(stating the role for which you are applying):  
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School,  
Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP  
(01634 338224)**

**Please note CV's will not be accepted.**

**Closing date: 18.9.2009**

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## MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

### ICT Technical I.L.T Support Engineer Ref: P0653

Salary: £18,433 - £23,640 per annum

We are looking to recruit an organized and hard working individual to support the ICT department in developing the College's Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). The successful candidate should have knowledge within this field and have an understanding of VLE's. The ability to work with a range of software packages including PHP in a Microsoft Windows environment, as well as being able to communicate at various technical levels is essential.

Closing date: Friday 18 September 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



## MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

### Lecturer in Motor Vehicle Ref: P0649

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and dynamic individual to teach on a range of Motor Vehicle courses. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within the Motor Vehicle Engineering Industry. MidKent College's highly successful Motor Vehicle department is looking for an interactive team member with strong communication skills. The ideal candidate will hold a HNC or degree in a related field and either possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are particularly interested in an individual that has the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen subject.

For an informal discussion about this role please call Simon Foot, Head of School on 01622 625864.

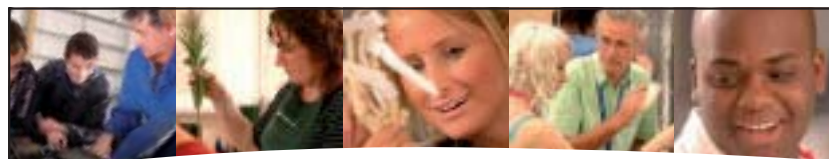
Closing date: Friday 26 September 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



## Career Opportunities



Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

The closing date for the following posts is Monday 21 Sept 2009 at 12 noon:

**Director of Business Development & Associated Services** 09/58

37 hours per week, salary range £51,299 - £60,930 per annum

**Head of Faculty – Science, Land Based & Humanities** 09/57

37 hours per week, salary starting at £42,760 per annum

The closing date for the following posts is Monday 11 Sept 2009 at 12 noon:

**Section Manager Construction Craft** 08/12

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £34,366 per annum

**Section Manager Fine Arts, Crafts and Design** 09/33

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £34,366 per annum

**Supply Lecturers Health & Social Care** S/H/S

Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

**Supply Lecturers Animal Care and Land Based Studies** S/IAC

Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

**Supply Lecturers Public Services** S/PS

Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

**Supply Lecturer Higher Education Health & Social Care (HND and BA courses)** S/HE/HSC

Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.

**Supply Lecturers Higher Education Animal Science (HND & BSc courses)** S/HE/AS

Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes.

Specialist knowledge of Animal Psychology, Microbiology, Anatomy and Histology is required. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.

**Supply Lecturers Higher Education to teach FD Moving Image Production and BA (Hons) TV Production and Moving Image Cultures** S/HE/MI

Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant area of Moving Image Production and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. Specialist knowledge of multi camera TV studio recording, multi camera location recording and post production using Avid/ Final Cut Pro is required for applied work. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.

**Supply Lecturer Higher Education Teacher Education** S/HE/TE

Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject, a recognised Teaching Qualification and be conversant with the deliver of PTLLS, CTLLS, DTLLS and related Teacher Education programmes.

**Caretaker** 09/55

37 hours per week, salary starting at £15,312 per annum

**Supply Recreation Assistants** S/RA

Various hours available, salary starting at £15,312 pro rata per annum

**Lecturer Forensic Science** 09/14

18.5 hours per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit [www.canterburycollege.ac.uk](http://www.canterburycollege.ac.uk) or call the Human Resources Office quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

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CRICKET

BY TOM HOWARD

Kent League Division Three  
Minster 1st XI v Gravesend 1st XI

MINSTER clinched the Division Three title with a massive ten wicket win against Gravesend.

The Sheppey side went into the final game of the season in second place, just a point behind leaders Upchurch. Knowing the title and promotion to Division Two was at stake, Minster produced one of their most dominant displays of the season.

Gravesend won the toss and elected to bat. It proved to be the wrong decision, as they came up against a rampant Minster bowling attack. Mike Rees and Nathan Nichol left Gravesend in trouble, losing five wickets for just 12 runs combined.

Minster's bowlers continued to trouble Gravesend, who never really recovered from losing their key batsmen. Only three batsmen managed to post a score in double figures, as they struggled to deal with Minster's bowlers. The visitors were quickly bowled out for 66, with Rees finishing with figures of 3 for 14.

The home side made light work of chasing down Gravesend's 66 with openers Andy Hosken (10) and Mark Tucker (43) hitting the all important winning runs inside 12 overs.

The ten wicket victory gave Minster the Division Three title by three points from second placed High Halstow.

Minster dominate to  
claim Division Three title



CHAMPIONS: Minster's Mike Rees (pictured) starred with the ball as his side clinched victory and the league title

SCOREBOARD

Gravesend

	Runs
Simon Nichols b Rees	1
James Butler lbw b Nichol	0
Jason Allen ct Barker b Nichol	2
Jamie Maguire ct Nichol b Rees	9
Ian Harkins b Rees	0
Craig Maguire b White	12
Matthew Dalton lbw b Tucker	1
Jon Jones not out	17
Tim Hance ct Barker b White	3
Andrew Quinton run out Barker	2
Salman Niazi b Hammond	13
Extras (1b 1lb 1w 3nb)	6
Total (all out, 30 overs)	66

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Nathan Nichol	8	2	16	2
Mike Rees	10	4	14	3
James White	7	0	16	2
Mark Tucker	3	0	6	1
Martin Hammond	2	1	12	1

Minster

	Runs
Andy Hosken not out	10
Mark Tucker not out	43
Kevin Barker did not bat	
Callum Hughes did not bat	
Jordan Weller did not bat	
Craig O'Donoghue did not bat	
James White did not bat	
George Duggan did not bat	
Nathan Nichol did not bat	
Mike Rees did not bat	
Martin Hammond did not bat	
Extras (4b 7lb 1w 5nb)	17
Total (0 wickets, 11.2 overs)	70

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Matthew Dalton	6	1	32	0
Salman Niazi	4	1	14	0
Tim Hance	1.2	0	13	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT PREMIER DIVISION

Gore Court 1st XI v Hartley Country Club 1st XI

A HALF century from Steve Marsh helped Gore Court narrowly avoid relegation from the Premier Division with a seven wicket win against former champions Hartley Country Club.

Court were in the relegation zone going into the final game of the season, knowing they had to win to stand any chance of survival.

A brilliant bowling performance limited Hartley to 163 all-out which gave Court the advantage. The home side's batsmen including Marsh (51) took up the run chase and secured victory inside 28 overs.

Hartley Country Club

	Runs
Min Patel	36
James Thompson	11
Sam Billings	61
Nicholas Lee	10
Lewis Hickford	4
James Cramp	17
Daniel Redwood	0
Andrew Tutt	0
Paul Thompson	8
Ryan Taylor	2
Darrell Carter	14
Extras	14
Total	163

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Kevin Jones	7	1	17	0
Adam Collins	8	3	28	0
Karl Pearson	10	2	48	3
Chris Piesley	10	0	35	2
Alex Edwards	4.3	0	22	3
Aaron Glass	3	0	6	1

Gore Court

	Runs
Steve Marsh	51
Daniel Forster	42
Kevin Jones	4
Chris Piesley	26
Karl Pearson	30
Christian Marsh	
Michael Jones	
Richard Cooper	
Aaron Glass	
Alex Edwards	
Adam Collins	
Extras	11
Total	164

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
James Thompson	10	0	55	2
Daniel Redwood	6	0	37	0
James Cramp	4	0	23	1
Darrell Carter	3	0	23	0
Paul Thompson	3.4	1	18	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE 2ND XI  
Rodmersham 2nd XI v Bexleyheath 2nd XI

RODMERSHAM 2's finished the season on a high by securing promotion to Division Four 2nd XI with a one wicket win on Saturday.

Bexleyheath with the help of an impressive 90 from Michael Lyons raced towards 219 from 50 overs, leaving Rodmersham a challenge for victory.

Despite a slow start, Rodmersham were up to the task and they steadily cut Bexleyheath's lead. With nine wickets down, Liam Ansley and Naj Hashimi held firm to hit the winning runs in the 46th over.

Bexleyheath

	Runs
Stephen Wilkes	2
Craig Richley	29
Michael Lyons	90
Nick Welte	4
Tom Castleton	4
Jake Kendall	13
Tom Beaumont	13
Sam Dalton	6
David Patton	
Chris Wiseman	
Michael Barker	
Extras	14
Total	219

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Chris Ansley	12	3	41	1
Matthew Jewiss	8	2	34	0
Daniel Pumfrett	5	0	17	0
Naj Hashimi	5	0	17	1
Matthew Baker	3	0	31	0
Liam Ansley	5	0	16	0
Trevor Jackson	12	0	58	4

Rodmersham

	Runs
Matthew Jewiss	17
Steve Pumfrett	15
Daniel Pumfrett	6
Lee Jackson	43
Chris Ansley	26
Kevin Beacon	40
Matthew Baker	11
Liam Ansley	23
Neville Broad	0
Trevor Jackson	0
Naj Hashimi	20
Extras	22
Total	223

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Tom Beaumont	15	4	39	4
Michael Barker	9	0	41	2
David Patton	6	1	35	0
Sam Dalton	0.3	0	8	0
Craig Richley	4.3	0	23	1
Tom Castleton	8	1	46	1
Stephen Wilkes	2.3	0	21	0

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Westgate-On-Sea 1st XI v Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow 1st XI

JUST six runs was the margin of victory for Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow at Westgate-On-Sea in an enthralling final day of the season.

Bobbing Court batted first and steadily clocked up runs to reach a healthy 199 from their 46 allotted overs. Opener Richard Gower top scored with 53.

With a high total to reach Westgate started slowly, but the innings began to pick up pace with good knocks from Lewis Winch (29) and Steve Wood (30). The Thanet side kept plugging away, but ultimately ran out of overs.

Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow

	Runs
Richard Gower	53
Adam Haward	4
Gary Ryan	6
Jehaan Thahir	45
Daniel Ball	2
Richard O'Kane	24
Paul Dennington	26
Simon Bennett	1
Jamie Ward	2
Paul Bacon	2
Ian Linsdell	5
Extras	29
Total	199

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Chris Flint	12	0	57	2
Jason Mickle	12	1	40	2
Brian Andrews	7	1	37	0
Richie Holden	11	1	39	1
Lewis Winch	4	0	14	2

Westgate-On-Sea

	Runs
Martin Watford	26
Keith Sandwell	6
Nick Sandwell	13
Lewis Winch	29
Steve Wood	30
Alan Winch	5
Chris Flint	29
Richie Holden	1
Brian Andrews	0
Jason Mickle	24
Alexander Arnold	1
Extras	29
Total	193

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Paul Bacon	10	0	49	1
Jamie Ward	5	1	26	1
Ian Linsdell	3	2	13	1
Paul Dennington	8	1	39	1
Jehaan Thahir	12	4	25	2
Richard Gower	8	1	30	3

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Upchurch 1st XI v Catford Wanderers 1st XI

UPCHURCH missed out on promotion to Division Two for the second year running following a 72 run defeat to Catford Wanderers.

Daniel Drummond significantly helped Catford to victory with a patient century before falling to the bowling of Dean Headley. With 221 on the board to beat, Upchurch faltered in their reply and lost wickets at regular intervals. The hosts were bowled out for a disappointing 149.

Upchurch were the league leaders before the game, but with Minster and High Halstow winning their final games Headley's Upchurch slipped to third place.

Catford Wanderers

	Runs
Daniel Drummond	100
Selwin Kulararatnam	9
Damon Grosscel	12
Bradley Rose	1
Allen Roane	14
Hayden Clarke	18
Andrew Ifill	31
Mans Udin	12
Ashley Forde	5
Jason Walker	0
Ewart Thompson	1
Extras	18
Total	221

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Daniel Parker	4	0	23	1
Marc Bond	11	0	52	2
Dean Headley	13	2	39	5
Michael Hales jnr	14	1	60	0
Adam Hodder	8	0	44	1

Upchurch CC - 1st XI

	Runs
Dean Headley	15
Jamie Parker	15
Andrew Shirley	0
Lee Taylor	18
Michael Hales jnr	8
Lee Stopney	4
Marc Bond	32
Adam Hodder	1
Daniel Parker	10
Aiden Jewiss	9
Steve Parker	0
Extras	31
Total	149

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Andrew Ifill	8	1	35	2
Ashley Forde	7	0	25	1
Jason Walker	6.4	1	23	5
Damon Grosscel	1	0	4	0
Allen Roane	6	0	17	2
Ewart Thompson	7	0	28	0





Picture: ICG KIPRO

## FOOTBALL



Picture: ICG KIPRO

OVER: Norton Sports' FA Vase dreams are over

## An extra time goal stole FA Vase hopes

Norton Sports 1 Lingfield 2

NORTON Sports' dreams of a run in the FA Vase were dashed in the cruellest possible fashion at Winch's Field on Saturday, when they were knocked by a goal scored in the penultimate minute of extra time.

The game was only a minute old when play was halted for 20 minutes after a head injury to the visitors keeper.

Trying to claim a free-kick, he landed awkwardly and was knocked unconscious, forcing the referee to halt play until an ambulance arrived.

When play restarted Norton looked the better of the two sides, but failed to convert their possession into clear cut chances and were made to pay on 40 minutes when the visitors took the lead.

### Robbed

Ben Taylor hesitated and was robbed by Joel Greaves, who rolled the ball past home keeper Chris Smith.

Norton struggled during the second half, but with the visitors wasting time whenever possible the referee added four minutes of injury time, during which Jack Goodger headed in a corner for the equaliser.

Norton looked the more likely scorers in the early stages of extra time, but with two minutes left Lingfield sounded a warning with a long-range effort that clipped the bar.

And in the dying seconds Lewis Rivett was caught in possession by Joel Hughes, who outpaced the defence to score a heart-breakingly late winner.

After their midweek FA Cup heroics against Merstham, Faversham returned to Kent League action on Saturday with a 0-0 draw against Tunbridge Wells, in front of just 85 fans at Culverden. The result means Faversham slip to second in the Premier Division, after Herne Bay won 5-3 at Fisher.

Town were due to play Lordswood at Salters Lane on Tuesday night, ahead of Saturday's FA Cup first qualifying round derby with Hythe at Reachfields.

• *For a report on the Lordswood game, visit [www.yoursware.co.uk](http://www.yoursware.co.uk).*

DEFEAT: Sittingbourne failed to find the cutting edge up front needed to salvage a point from a disappointing display on Saturday

# Poor performance and a poor show at Bourne Park

## FOOTBALL

BY YOURSWALE REPORTER

Sittingbourne 0



Walton & Hersham 1

Pinnock 63



A MIDWEEK plea for increased support for the Brickies fell on deaf ears, as Saturday's defeat to Walton & Hersham took place in front of a dismal crowd of just 120 at Bourne Park.

Spectators were thin on the ground and so was entertainment during a poor opening period.

Sittingbourne had their chances and might have taken a ninth-minute lead when Colin

Richmond tried his luck from distance, but visiting keeper Steve Windegaard was alert to the danger.

At the other end Bill Manners had to be alert to deny Julien Thompson, when he was played in by Jason Pinnock.

The sides traded chances, with Femi Omogbehin going close with a 14th minute header for the Brickies and Thompson then drawing a save from Deren Ibrahim.

Richard Brady had a chance on 26 minutes but failed to seriously test Windegaard, before Elie Kayembe produced a better effort that dipped over the bar.

The turning point was arguably half-time, when manager Gary Abbott was forced to bring off Billy Manners, who had looked solid alongside Matt Bourne at the back. Nick Reeves dropped back to take his place with Bradley Spice coming on as a substitute, but the Brickies' cohesion had gone.

On 63 minutes Aaron Murphy ran at a hesitant Sittingbourne backline and crossed to the unmarked Pinnock, who beat Ibrahim from close range.

The Brickies might have drawn level in the

### Sittingbourne starting XI



Suits used: Spice (Manners 46), Grant (Richmond 84)

closing stages when they produced arguably their best move of the game. Spice managed to waltz past half the visitors' defenders before squaring the ball to Hicham Akhazzan.

He in turn found Kayembe, only for Andy Wylde to fling himself in the way and snuff out the danger. The loss was Sittingbourne's first this season at Bourne Park and the Brickies are now 12th in Ryman Division 1 South.

This weekend they face a tough trip to the division's leaders Folkestone Invicta, in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup.

# Crash stops Byrne claiming further points

## SUPERBIKES

SHANE Byrne's first ever trip to Germany's notoriously difficult Nurburgring ended in disappointment with the Sterilgarda Ducati rider losing ground in the World Superbike Championship.

With rain affected practice sessions during Thursday and Friday, the Sheppey rider was forced to learn the track in qualifying. Despite his lack of circuit knowledge, Byrne soon got to grips with the venue and posted a solid time to earn himself tenth spot on the grid.

Byrne, who had surged into the top ten in the standings after a successful summer, went into Sunday's races targeting a top six finish. However, a slow start to race one saw Byrne slip down



Picture: STERILGARD DUCATI

UNLUCKY: Shane Byrne's hopes of moving up world standings were dealt a blow

to 13th position after the opening lap. With overtaking at the

Nurburgring difficult, he slowly made up positions and crossed

the line in tenth to pick up six points.

The second race didn't hold much luck for Byrne either, as he crashed on lap nine and was unable to finish the race.

He said: "This is not a very favourable track for Ducati, but I was still hoping to get some more points in race two as well. In race one I had little grip on the back wheel and so we put soft tyres on, but it seems that wasn't a very good decision. Unfortunately, I only had two sessions to learn the track because on Friday it was raining. Sometimes these things can happen."

Next up for Byrne is a trip to San Marino's Imola circuit later this month, as the series draws towards a close at Portugal's Portimao circuit on October 25.

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